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January 4, 1982

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1981 CROP PRODUCTION IN REVIEW

Alberta farmers produced the largest crop in 1981 that has ever been grown in the province. Total production of the six major grain crops, and oilseeds exceeded 15.1 million tonnes, which easily surpassed the previous record of 13.9 million tonnes established in 1980.

Fred Boyce, assistant head of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, reports that record yields were set for wheat, rye, flaxseed and sugar beets. Oat and barley yields were the second highest on record, and canola yields were better than the long-term average.

The 1981 Statistics Canada estimates of average yields in kilograms per acre of the principal grain crops and oilseed are as follows. The previous five-year average is in brackets.

wheat 930 (815); oats 935 (895); barley 1 055 (1 015); rye 1 075 (745); flaxseed 560 (455); canola/rapeseed 485 (465). [In bushels per acre — wheat 34.2 (30.0); oats 60.7 (58.1); barley 48.5 (46.6); rye 42.3 (29.3); flaxseed 22.0 (17.9); canola/rapeseed 21.3 (20.6)].

In addition to producing record yields, Alberta farmers took off an exceptionally high quality crop, says Mr. Boyce. Because of the almost perfect harvesting weather, most crops were harvested without any weather damage, and many farmers in northern Alberta received grades that have rarely, if ever, been seen in their districts. Over 80 per cent of the wheat produced in the province is expected to be in the top two grades and over 90 per cent of the barley will grade No.1 Feed or higher. The lower grades that were experienced were mainly due to low test weights that resulted from heat and drought stress in the drier areas and to some ergot problems in south-central areas. Most of the oilseed crop is expected to grade No.1 Canada.

- (cont'd) -

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1981 Crop Production In Review (cont'd)

According to Mr. Boyce, Alberta farmers seeded more acres than ever before in 1981 because of the favorable moisture conditions that prevailed throughout most of the province. The consequence of this was that the province's summerfallow acreage dropped to just over 5 million acres, its lowest level since 1940.

Forage Crops

Excellent hay crops in southern and central Alberta raised the provincial hay yield above the long-term average. However, the northeast part of the province and the Peace River region harvested below average hay crops due to poor moisture conditions and extensive legume winterkill. The excellent hay crops that were taken off in the southern half of the province has resulted in surplus winter feed supplies in nearly all districts.

Diseases and Insects

Mr. Boyce says that disease problems were relatively minor in Alberta crops in 1981. However, seedling blight plus patchy germination and insect infestations in some fields of canola reduced stands to the point where they had to be reseeded. Damage from such other canola diseases as sclerotinia and white rust was minimal, but yields in some fields of winter wheat in southern Alberta were reduced by root rot, and some dry bean crops suffered from mold problems. Ergot was more prevalent than usual in a number of south-central districts.

Insect damage was generally light, and, although fleabeetles were present in most regions, the infestations were less severe than in the past. The Hanna area and northern regions of the province reported higher than usual concentrations of grasshoppers. And there were some root maggot infestations in canola crops in the Edmonton region. Aphids and forest tent caterpillars were also a problem in shelterbelts and treed areas in this region.

1981 Crop Production In Review (cont'd)

Hail and Weather Damage

Weather-related crops losses were well below normal in 1981. The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports that the loss to premium ratio was the lowest since 1974. And in spite of expanded coverage, total claims dropped to just over $27 million from $30 million in 1980. Most of the claims were for drought losses in northeastern Alberta and the Peace River region and for hail damage in the southern half of the province.

Hail insurance claims were responsible for the largest number of claims. A total of $13.7 million was paid out under the Hail Endorsement Program alone.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTERKILL OF ALFALFA

Why was so much of the alfalfa in northern Alberta winterkilled in 1980-81?

According to Dr. Jim McKenzie, a plant survival scientist at Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, a number of factors were involved. One was a late flush of growth during the fall of 1980, which caused buds to develop into new shoots, thereby utilizing some of the plants' winter food reserves. This late flush of growth was also responsible for the plants starting to prepare for winter about a month later than normal, which made them more susceptible than usual to cold temperature disease organisms.

Another factor was the drop in the air temperature in late November 1980 to -28 ° C. This situation caused the soil temperature to drop below -10° C in areas that did not have snow cover, with the result that most alfalfa varieties sustained winter injury. In fact, about 15 per cent of the plants were killed in many fields.

A third factor was the mid-December thaw that occurred in 1980. It caused icing conditions in many fields, and these conditions remained during the rest of the winter. The ice caused a build-up of gasses and toxic compounds in the plants, and by February an additional 15 per cent of the plants in many fields had died.

Dr. McKenzie says that tender alfalfa varieties were the most susceptible to winterkill as were plants in fields that had been harvested between late July and mid-September, 1980. Two other situations that contributed to the severe winterkill were wet soil areas in the fall of 1980, and areas that experienced late spring frosts in 1981 after the plants had started growing.

The alfalfa stands that were least susceptible to winterkill, according to Dr. McKenzie, were those that had been sown in 1980, those that were harvested only once in 1980 and the alfalfa varieties Peace and locally grown Grimm.

- (cont'd) -

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Winterkill Of Alfalfa (cont'd) -

The conclusions that Dr. McKenzie has drawn from the above research is that alfalfa growers should not plant all their alfalfa acreage to one variety and that they should not plant it all in the same year. He recommends planting a percentage of the total acreage each year and planting a percentage of it to Peace or Grimm, especially if the alfalfa has to be harvested in August. He also recommends planting other recommended varieties and not harvesting alfalfa in August unless absolutely necessary.

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January 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW TO SURVIVE IN LEAN TIMES

by George Maicher
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture

Here are a number of tips on how to manage your farm successfully during lean times. The following ideas may help you to cope with high input prices and inadequate farm product prices that put pressure on your cash.

- Keep good cost records on all your farm enterprises. And either scale down or shut down unprofitable areas in your operation. Cut your losses by leaving a livestock facility empty rather than losing additional money on every animal that is sold.
- Discuss your plans with your accountant if you intend to discontinue a particular operation. Many farmers believe that selling off a part of their farm will result in a difficult tax situation. An accountant may be able to solve some of these potential tax liabilities and, thereby, enable you to concentrate your efforts on your money-making enterprises.
- Make full use of your district agriculturist, regional farm specialist and other accessible and knowledgeable people. Good advice is probably more important today than ever before.
- Figure out how much it costs you to hold grain or other inventory and compare that cost with your price expectations for the product. Check price forecasts and see whether the chances of price improvements are enough to warrant your holding your grain or livestock. In times of high interest rates, it is expensive to hold products on inventory.

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How To Survive In Lean Times (cont'd)

- Develop a marketing plan and incorporate the different marketing strategies that are available such as hedging and forward contracting. Consider using the services of marketing specialists and consultants, but avoid being a speculator. Don't always try to sell today at yesterday's prices!
- Consider shifting some resources to production processes with a faster turnaround — e.g. a small hog operation using existing buildings. Even a feeder operation may pay off if it will bring your grain to market several months earlier. The interest costs of storage can be considerable when one considers the cost of carrying an operating loan over several months.
- See whether you can sell some of your grain as seed or use your machinery for custom work, or consider off-farm employment.
- List everything you own but are not using. You may have some special equipment for a machine or implement that you no longer own, or a specialized machine for an enterprise you no longer operate. Dispose of unnecessary items. The gain in cash may well offset the capital cost allowance.
- Consider selling land that is of no particular benefit to the survival of your farm. Selling it now might tide you over until better times.
- Reduce risk on rented land by using a crop-share lease with input costs shared with the landlord.
- Lock in as many costs as possible at a rate that you can afford. These could be feed costs, interest and so forth. This procedure will reduce your chances of reaping a windfall profit, but it will also reduce your risk.
- Re-examine past decisions regarding buying or making farm equipment. Conditions and your original decision criteria may have changed.

- (cont'd) -

How to Survive In Lean Times (cont'd)

- Use crop insurance to reduce risk of loss.
- Reduce the purchase of new fixed assets to only those that are essential to secure your cash flow.
- Consider delaying the purchase of supplies. Although input prices are rising, it may still be to your advantage to pay off your debts now. The prepurchase of supplies now might seriously stretch your available cash and narm your liquidity.
- Consider your tax situation before buying machinery or prepurchasing supplies. If you have no tax liability, your best bet may be to defer purchases. If you are in a high tax bracket, then the purchase price is actually much lower than what you pay for it.
- Soil test your land and apply fertilizers in accordance with its recommendations. And adjust these recommendations if you decide to apply manure as well. Remember, that the highest net return does not always come from the highest yielding crop. An additional bushel of grain obtained by the use of extra fertilizer could cost you dearly when input costs are high.
- Make time available for financial management and priority planning.
- Pay outstanding bills as late as possible within the limits required to maintain your credit rating and good relations with your suppliers. Good office management will ensure that your bills are paid on the latest date prior to incurring a penalty. Take advantage whenever possible of cash discounts for prompt payment.
- Read farm journals, newspapers and newsletters.
- Check out assistance and possible grant programs from all levels of government.

January 4, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT MEETING TO BE HELD IN CALGARY.

The Society for Range Management's 35th annual meeting will be held at the Calgary Inn (Westin Hotels) in Calgary from February 8 - 12. This is the first time this meeting has been held in Alberta since 1964.

The Society for Range Management is a non-profit international organization of individuals who have a common interest in the study, management and rational use of rangeland and related ecosystems. At the present time it has a membership of 5,000 representing 50 countries. The membership is made up of research scientists, government agency administrators, educators, technical personnel, ranchers, students and people associated with business and industry.

Approximately 275 technical papers will be presented at the Calgary meeting, and they have been divided into the following categories: Range Animals (37 papers); Range Plants (40 papers); Soil and Water (10 papers); Range Ecology and Rangeland Ecosystems (46 papers); Range Management Systems (27 papers); Range Inventory and Evaluation (10 papers); Range Improvement and Land Reclamation (56 papers); Sociological and Political Concerns (14 papers); Range Economics and Management (15 papers); and Ranching Practices (15 papers).

The majority of the people presenting papers will be research scientists from the United States, but there will also be many people from Canada and some from other parts of the world. Tom Gilchrist, a rancher at Milk River, Alberta; Sherman Ewing, a rancher from Claresholm, Alberta; and Maury Thomas, a rancher from Okanagan Falls, British Columbia, will be among those presenting papers and discussing Ranching Practices.

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Society For Range Management Meeting To Be Held In Calgary (cont'd)

According to Bob Wroe, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of range management, and one of the organizers of the program, the afternoon session on February 8 is very important because it will set the tone for the rest of week, which will finish up with a tour to the Rockies on February 12.

Mr. Wroe says a special program has been arranged for spouses, the highlights of which will include a visit to Spruce Meadows, one of North America's finest equestrian facilities, and to the Calgary Tower and a tour of Calgary's famous Glenbow Museum.

There will be a banquet on the evening of February 10, which will feature the Northern Dancers, an ethnic group from Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. The cost will be $18 per person.

Mr. Wroe expects about 800 people to attend the Society for Range Management's annual meeting. Registrations will be accepted throughout the week and the registration fee will be $60 per person except in the case of students when it will be $30, and in the case of spouses when it will be $25. This fee will cover the cost of a copy of the program and the cost of a publication which contains an abstract of all the technical papers that are presented.

Further information on the Society for Range Management's annual meeting can be obtained from Bob Wroe, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, TOL 1SO (Telephone: 782-4641).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS OF HATCHING EGG MARKETING BOARD ANNOUNCED

The Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council has announced the appointments of five provisional members to the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board. They will not serve for more than 18 months, after which members will be elected by the producers at the board's annual meeting.

The provisional members are:

Vic Regier of Lethbridge	(phone 327-1812)
Norman Storch of Hanna	(phone 854-2593)
Clarence Tiemstra of Neerlandia	(phone 674-5721)
George Wickersham of Linden	(phone 546-3063)
Robert Woelk of Thorhild	(phone 398-2329)

These five people, all of whom are hatching egg producers, will be responsible for guiding the Alberta hatching Egg Marketing Board through its formative stages and for developing a foundation that will enable it to provide a beneficial service to hatching egg producers and the broiler chicken industry as a whole.

For further information, contact Tom Sydness, secretary, Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-2165).

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January 4, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Alberta's fifteenth annual Pesticide Applicators Training Program, the only one of its kind in Canada, will be held at Olds College from February 22 to 26.

Participants will receive the necessary training for a licence to apply pesticides in rural areas; to use pesticides to control or prevent the growth of vegetation along power lines, rights-of-way, etc.; to apply pesticides from an aircraft; and to apply pesticides in urban or non-agricultural areas. The program is also designed to give public agency or government employees the necessary training to obtain a licence in any of the above areas.

The following topics are on the course agenda: legislation; pesticide chemistry; toxicity and health; safety and safety equipment; botany; mode of action of herbicides; general entomology; pesticide formulation; plant diseases and their control; effects of pesticides on fish and wildlife; weed identification; first aid; sprayer calibration; insect pests and their control; and vertebrate pest control.

The course does not provide training for a licence to apply seed treatment chemicals or to apply pesticides in buildings, to livestock, to stored grain; to indoor plants or to control aquatic vegetation or biting flies. Anyone who would like training for one of these licences should contact the Pesticide Chemicals Branch, Pollution Control Division, Alberta Environment, Oxbridge Place, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2J6.

People who are planning to participate in the Pesticide Applicator's Training Program but who have only a limited amount of experience with pesticides may want to prepare themselves for by taking a home study course. Lakeland College at Vermilion offers such a course by correspondence.

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Pesticide Applicators Training Program (cont'd)

The Pesticide Applicators Training Program costs $12.00 a day which includes extensive mimeographed notes. No accommodation will be available in the Olds College residence, but noon lunch will be available.

Anyone who would like to take all or part of the course should register with Olds College before February 1, because enrollment is limited. There will be no registration at the course. More detailed information can be obtained from the Division of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO (Telephone: 556-8322).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 TREE PRUNING COURSES

Would you like to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's popular annual tree pruning courses? If so you had better get your application in as soon as possible!

Two of these two-day courses will take place simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 2 and 3, 1982. A third will be held at Fairview on March 8 and 9, 1982. Attendance at each course is limited to 30. However, if any of the courses are oversubscribed, as has been the case over the last few years, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course. It could be held at any of the three locations immediately following the scheduled course.

Although the courses are designed for people whose jobs involve trees, and who are self-employed in this type of work, they are open to anybody interested in tree maintenance and beautification. A total of 185 people attended last year's courses.

Each course covers specific pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees and is arranged in such a way that participants have ample opportunity to practise what they learn in the classroom. The courses will also cover insect and disease control as they relate to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties that are recommended for Alberta.

The deadline for applications for any of the courses is March 1, 1982. Application forms can be obtained from the Alberta Tree Nursery, R.R. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3. (Telephone: 973 3351) or from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, TOJ OJO. (Telephone: 362 3391).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DEPUTY MINISTER OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, has announced the appointment of H.B. (Ben) McEwen to the position of deputy minister of Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. McEwen takes over the position after having served as the chairman of the board of directors of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation since mid-1981. As chairman, he helped to expand the Beginning Farmers Program which has become the chief source of funding for all new farmers in Alberta, and he helped to refine several programs intended to further agricultural processing in the province.

Mr. McEwen previously held the positions of director and assistant deputy minister with Alberta Agriculture, and he first joined the department in November 1975 as director of market development. He was appointed assistant deputy minister responsible for international marketing in August 1976, when the department's international marketing sector was initially formed. He held that position until he assumed the chairmanship of the Agricultural Development Corporation this year.

He has a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph and has had extensive experience in agricultural marketing. After having advanced through technical, sales and management positions with United Co-operative in Ontario, he joined Genstar Limited in 1966 where he held progressively senior marketing and production posts. With the company's Brockville chemical division, he progressed to the position of vice-president of marketing and was responsible for sales of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals in Eastern Canada as well as in the U.S.A. and other export markets.

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New Deputy Minister Of Alberta Agriculture Announced (cont'd)

Mr. McEwen is a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. He has served as president of the Plant Food Council of Ontario and as chairman of the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

The current acting deputy minister of Agriculture, H.M. Douglas, will resume his duties as assistant deputy minister for production. He assumed the acting position upon the sudden death last July of the then deputy minister, Dr. J.G. O'Donoghue.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF IRRIGATION LAND CLASSIFICATION BRANCH APPOINTED

J.C. Purnell, director of Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division, has announced the appointment of Kaljo Pohjakas to the position of head of the land classification branch.

Mr. Pohjakas was formerly employed in the farm irrigation services branch as a soil and water specialist and comes well qualified to his new position. He has also had experience in the application of irrigation in Malaysia, Indonesia and Iran. Between 1959 and 1972, he spent a considerable time as a research scientist at the federal research stations in Swift Current and Lethbridge.

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COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1982

Palliser Wheat Growers Association Convention
Holiday Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . January 5 -7

Third International Conference on Goat Production and Disease
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. . . . . January 10 - 15

Farm and Home Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 11 - 15

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 11 - 15

6th Annual Bedding Plant Course
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . January 18 - 19

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 20 - 22

Alberta Vegetable Growers Marketing Board — Annual Convention
Taber, Alberta. . . . . January 28

Alberta Canola Growers Association — Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 28 - 29

Western Stock Growers Association — Annual Meeting and Convention
Capri Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . January 28 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association — Annual Convention
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 31 - February 2

Agriculture Service Board — Annual Conference
Calgary Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . January 31 - February 3

Society for Range Management — 35th Annual Meeting
Calgary Inn (Westin Hotels)
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 8 - 12

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Prairie Potato Council
Chateau Lacombe
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 12 - 17

2nd Annual Commercial Beekeepers Course
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . February 14 - 19

Northlands Stock Show and Sale
Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 14 - 22

Western Canadian Economic Conference on Food Industry
Terrace Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 15 - 16

Western Canadian Society for Horticulture
Chateau Lacombe
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 17 - 19

Pesticide Applicator Course
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . February 22 - 26

Agriculture Week
Alberta . . . . . February 22 - 27

Alberta Soil Science Workshop
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 23 - 24

Ag Expo 1982
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . March 3 - 6

"A Pioneering Past . . . A Challenging Future"
Canadian Cattlemens Association
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . March 15 - 17

Accent '82
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . March 17 - 18

Canola Council of Canada – Annual Meeting
Bayshore Inn
Vancouver, B.C . . . . . March 22 - 24

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Lilydale Co-operative Limited – Annual Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... March 24

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit – '82
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... March 28 - 31

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Calgary, Alberta ..... April 30 - May 2

Advanced Leadership Development
(Rural Communities, Farm Organizations)
Banff, Alberta ..... June 13 - 18

Alberta Pork Congress
Red Deer, Alberta ..... June 15 - 17

Alberta Union of REAs
Red Deer, Alberta ..... June 22 - 23

Breton Plots Field Day and Soils – Crops Clinic
Breton Plots
Breton, Alberta ..... July 2

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Edmonton, Alberta ..... July 4 - 9

Canadian Seed Growers' Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... July 8 - 10

18th Annual Horticulture Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... July 25 - 30

World Arabian Horse Organization – Annual Convention
Calgary, Alberta ..... August 16 - 20

World of Unifarm – Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 2 - 3

United Grain Growers Ltd – Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... November 3 - 4

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
West of Nordegg, Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 19 - 23

Agribition and Mexabition
Canadian Western Agribition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 27 - December 3

1983

Farm and Home Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . January 10 - 14

19th Annual Horticultural Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 24 - 29

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 11, 1982

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BLUE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR 1982

by Andy Birch
District Agriculturist, Stettler, Alberta

Negativism was the tenor of the federal Agricultural Outlook Conference that was held in Ottawa recently.

Costs of fuel, machinery and feed are predicted to increase, but the worst culprit of all will be interest rates, which are forecast to vary from 17 to 22 per cent for short-term operating loans. And total farm expenses are expected to increase by about 10 per cent, while total farm cash receipts are projected to edge upward by only 5 per cent. The result will be a drop of about 15 per cent in net farm income in 1982.

The following commodities are forecast to experience price declines. Wheat No.1 CWRS (13.5 per cent protein) prices are expected to average from $230 to $240 per tonne compared with $247 per tonne in 1980-81. A big fall in price is forecast for durum wheat, and off-board barley prices at Thunder Bay are expected to average between $125 and $132 per tonne, down by $15 to $21 per tonne from 1980-81. A favorable stock position is anticipated for all coarse grains because production is expected to increase by 5 per cent and demand to increase only marginally.

Currently depressed oilseed prices are expected to continue for the balance of the present crop year because the global supply-demand situation appears to be fairly static. However, domestic crushers could face a serious supply problem if the oilseed acreage is not increased.

In the livestock sector, sheep and lamb prices are anticipated to remain low as a result of an increase in supply and depressed prices for other meat. However, beef prices

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Blue Agricultural Outlook for 1982 (cont'd)

should improve marginally during the first half of 1982, as a result of slightly reduced supplies, but the conference analysts do not expect any significant rebound in prices. The reason for their pessimism is weak consumer demand and cheaper priced competitive meats. Predictions for A1 and A2 steers in Toronto call for an average price of $82 to $83 per hundredweight during the first half of 1982.

In the case of hogs, prices are expected to strengthen somewhat during the first half of this year, but this moderate improvement could be offset by an increase in the slaughter volume during the second half of the year. The forecast says that 100 index hogs basis Toronto could average $70 per hundredweight during the first half of 1982. Increased consumption and the higher prices that are forecast for red meat should add some strength to poultry prices, and prices for most dairy products are expected to rise.

As far as farm inputs are concerned, higher energy and transportation costs will be reflected here. However, higher financial charges and declining commodity prices are expected to restrain the rate at which prices for the various inputs increase.

If one believes the Outlook Conference's predictions, one might be wise to close the barn door, drain the tanks, board up the windows and pack up the old sluice box, pick and shovel and head for the Yukon. But do not abandon the old farmstead yet. If there is one note of optimism, it is that the Outlook Conference can just as easily be wrong as it can be right. Events can change and they can change very unexpectedly and very dramatically! Remember, it was just last year that the conference forecast a very positive outlook for wheat and coarse grains on the world market. What we got was a 180 degree flip-flop!

I still maintain a more optimistic picture will prevail in the long run because there are just too many variables that can change. However, after all the "bulls" and "bears" have come and gone, one wonders who will be left to pick up the pieces.

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW WINTER-HARDY ALFALFA VARIETY

Help is on the way for farmers in northern Alberta who suffer winterkill problems in their alfalfa. The help is in the form of a new variety that has demonstrated superior winter hardiness in northern areas.

According to Dr. J.S. McKenzie of Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, the new variety, known as Peace, was developed at the federal experimental station at Fort Vermilion in co-operation with the research station at Beaverlodge. He says it originates from a Landrace cultivar which has predominately Grim characteristics.

In addition to being hardy, Peace has good persistence and grows rapidly in northern regions after it has been cut. It also appears to have more resistance to fall cutting stress than any other variety. Hence, it could be very useful to farmers who have to cut their alfalfa during the critical harvesting period in August and early September.

Dr. McKenzie explains that cutting alfalfa during the critical harvesting perioc increases its potential for winter injury because the plants may enter the winter with low food reserves. Those that do enter the winter with low food reserves are more susceptible to damage from winter stress conditions than those with high food reserves. Dr. McKenzie points out that winter injury not only reduces the plant population and yield potential of a stand of alfalfa, but it also facilitates the build-up of weeds which compete with the alfalfa for light, moisture and nutrients.

He reports that seed of the Peace alfalfa variety has been released to the Secan organization and is now available from the following participating members.

Alberta Wheat Pool
Box 3700
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 2P5 Tel: 267-4910

- (cont'd) -

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A New Winter-Hardy Alfalfa Variety (cont'd)

Hopkins Seed Farm
Box 815
Peace River, Alberta
T0H 2X0 Tel: 624-4312

Prairie Seeds Ltd
R.R. No.1
South Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 4N6 Tel: 463-4736

Richardson Seed Co. Ltd
7342 - Winston St.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 2H1 Tel: (604) 420-3437

Spruce Vista Seed Farms
Box 88
Berwyn, Alberta
T0H 0E0 Tel: 338-2215

Ward Farms
Box 93
Aylsham, Saskatchewan
S0E 0C0 Tel: (306) 862-5015

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Convention will be held at Convention Inn South in Edmonton on February 1, 2 and 3. It will not be held on January 31 - February 2 as stated in the "Agri-News" Coming Agricultural Events.

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CATTLE LOUSE SURVEY RESULTS

A survey conducted by entomologists at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville indicates that cattle lice are probably present in varying degrees of severity in most cattle herds in Alberta. It also shows that properly maintained self-treatment oilers and the timely application of pour-on cattle insecticides can significantly reduce louse infestations.

However, Hugh Philip, who conducted the survey, points out that no conclusions can be drawn from the survey results that would reflect an accurate picture of the severity of cattle lice infestations for the whole province because of the preliminary nature of the survey and the small number of cattle and herds involved.

The survey was carried out last spring in the Consort and Stettler areas. Eight beef herds, consisting of six yearling herds on feed and two cow herds, were surveyed in the Consort area, and seven herds, all consisting of yearlings on feed, were surveyed in the Stettler area. The cattlemen who co-operated in the survey were contacted by local agricultural fieldmen, and between 20 and 50 animals were examined on each farm.

According to Mr. Philip, all the herds that were surveyed had one or more louse-infested animals, but no dibilitated animals. He reports that of the 467 animals examined, 59 per cent were infested to some extent, and that the proportion of infested animals per herd varied from 4 to 97 per cent. He also says that the long-nosed sucking louse was the most commonly found species. The short-nosed louse and the biting louse were found in only three herds at Consort and six herds at Stettler, and their numbers were low. Since the long-nosed and the short-nosed species both suck blood from their hosts, they are the most debilitating of the three species.

All the cattlemen whose herds were surveyed treated their cattle every year for warbles and for lice when infestations became apparent (loss of hair, rubbing, scratching).

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Cattle Louse Survey Results (cont'd)

However, only seven of the herds were being treated for lice via a pour-on or some form of self-treatment. Mr. Philip reports that only 37 per cent of the animals that had been treated for lice had lice compared with 75 per cent of those that had not been treated. He also pointed out that the number of lice found on untreated animals averaged six times greater than the number found on treated animals, and that the proportion of animals infested and the severity of the infestations were much lower in herds exposed to an oiler compared with those that had been treated with a pour-on insecticide.

The survey was carried out because there is no documented information on the incidence or the severity of lice in Alberta's cattle herds. Reports from cattlemen and Alberta Agriculture field staff and livestock specialists on the severity of the problem in this province have varied from year to year, and there is no quantitative information available on the number of herds infested, the proportion of cattle in a herd that are infested, the severity of infestations or the species of lice involved.

"The survey was conducted", Mr. Philip says, "to gather preliminary data on the louse situation in a small number of selected herds in central Alberta. And the cattlemen who co-operated in the project were also surveyed to find out their attitudes towards warble grub control and louse control."

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A COMPARISON OF BEEF BUYING METHODS

Can I save money by buying a side or a quarter of beef?

Dora Blitt, a marketing officer with Alberta Agriculture, says you have four alternatives when buying beef. You can buy a whole carcass, a side or a quarter; you can buy wholesale cuts (rib, loin, hip or chuck); you can buy pre-assembled freezer packs; or you can buy retail cuts.

Among the things you should consider when making your choice are "Does my family like all the cuts of beef in a carcass or do they prefer steaks and certain roasts?" "How much beef does my family eat in six months?"; "Am I prepared to spend the time required to prepare the less tender cuts?"; and "How much storage room do I have in my freezer?" You should allow approximately one cubic metre (one cubic foot) for every 16 kilograms (30 to 35 pounds) of cut and wrapped meat. Ms. Blitt says, as a general rule, a side of beef will require approximately seven cubic metres (eight cubic feet) of freezer storage space.

Side or Quarter

If you decide to buy a side or a quarter of beef, remember that the price quoted is for hanging weight (the weight before the meat has been cut and the fat and bone removed). This wastage will come to about 25 per cent. And if you decide to buy beef in the carcass, be sure to specify that you want grade A1 beef, and request that the side or quarter be taken from an animal that weighs around 136 kilograms (300 pounds). This will ensure that you get the best possible yield. "It is also a good idea to ask for meat from a steer rather than a heifer," says Ms. Blitt, "because the yield and taste is always better. The better yield and the better taste are worth the extra 4¢ or 5¢ per kilogram (2¢ or 3 ¢per pound) that you may have to pay."

Ms. Blitt also recommends that you ask whether the price per kilogram you are quoted for a side or a quarter of beef includes the cost of cutting, wrapping and quick-freezing.

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A Comparison Of Beef Buying Methods (cont'd)

If it does not, allow for an additional 44¢ to 55¢ per kilogram (20¢ to 25¢ per pound).

Wholesale Cuts

If you do not want all the cuts that come with a side or a quarter of beef, or if your freezer space is limited, you may decide to buy a wholesale cut such as a loin. From a loin you will get porterhouse, T-bone, wing and sirloin steaks plus some ground meat and stewing beef. However, you will only save between 11¢ and 22¢ per kilogram (5¢ and 10¢ per pound) if you buy a wholesale cut. The main advantage here is convenience.

Pre-Assembled Freezer Packs

If you decide on a freezer pack, you have two choices. You can get one that was pre-assembled by the butcher or you can choose the composition of the pack yourself and make use of advertised specials. If you choose a freezer pack that has been pre-assembled by the butcher, you can expect about a 10 per cent saving compared with regular retail prices. If you assemble the pack yourself, you will save the equivalent of the specials that you choose.

Retail Cuts

To save on retail cuts, watch for specials. The advantage here is that you can buy as little or as much meat as you like. But remember, if you intend to freeze a retail cut, it will probably have to be re-wrapped and the cost of the re-wrapping should be added to the price.

Ms. Blitt compared the cost of buying beef in carcass form with the costs of buying it at regular retail prices and at advertised special prices. She found that it cost considerably more to buy beef at regular retail prices than it costs to buy it in carcass form, but that it costs about the same to buy it in carcass form as it costs to buy it at advertised special prices. However, if you buy beef at advertised special prices, you have the additional advantages of being able to buy only the cuts that you like and you do not have a high initial cash outlay.

January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CONDENSING FURNACES

People who are thinking about building a new home or about replacing an old furnace should be aware of the latest developments in energy-efficient heating.

According to Don Wharton of Alberta Agriculture's home design branch, condensing furnaces are the latest development in furnace technology. The word condensing refers to the fact that these high-efficiency furnaces extract so much heat from the flue gases that water is condensed and subsequently removed by a floor drain. The seasonal efficiency of condensing furnaces is quoted to be 90 to 95 per cent compared with about 60 per cent for a standard forced-air furnace.

Three companies are currently manufacturing condensing furnaces. Clare Brothers and Intercity Gas (ICG) furnaces use three heat exchangers instead of the normal one exchanger to reduce flue gas temperatures to about 45° C. The cool flue gases are forced out of the building by a two-inch plastic pipe vent instead of through a chimney. The vent goes through the wall in the house in a similar manner to that of a clothes dryer vent. This reduces the amount of warm air that is normally lost up the chimney when a furnace is not operating.

Mr. Wharton says Lennox is developing a condensing furnace which employs a new process called "pulsed" combustion. These "pulsed" combustion furnaces will use a combustion chamber and a spark plug to burn natural gas in much the same way as an automobile engine.

Only the Clare furnace is on the market at the present time. ICG and Lennox plan to release their models sometime later this year or in early 1982. Since these units cost from $800 to $1,000 more than a standard furnace, at current gas prices it will take about nine years in fuel saving to pay back the additional investment.

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING SET FOR HANNA

A meeting for beef producers has been organized by the Hanna and District Agricultural Society in co-operation with the Hanna district office to enable them to discuss possible solutions to the problems that will face the cattle industry in the 1980's. The meeting will take place in the John Charyle High School in Hanna on January 21.

Eugene Whelan, federal minister of agriculture, and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, will be among the featured speakers. Others will include Duane Couldwell, a marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture; Charley Gracey of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Toronto; Len Friessen, a feedlot owner from Calgary; Dr. "Red" Williams of the University of Saskatchewan; and Harvey Buckley, head of the Alberta Farm Products Marketing Council and a beef producer from Cochrane.

Topics on the agenda will include: Let the Economy Take Care of Itself; Federal Subsidization of Herds; Price Support Insurance Programs; and Production Controlled Marketing Programs.

Mr. Couldwell will talk about the various provincial programs that are intended to help farmers and ranchers in eight of the 10 provinces. Mr. Gracey, known to favor the free market system, will urge that the system be left alone. Mr. Friessen will talk about where domestic cattle are marketed, how they are marketed and how prices are fixed. Dr. Williams will discuss the international beef market, international trade agreements and the way they affect Canada. And Mr. Buckley will discuss agricultural marketing legislation in Canada.

Registration forms can be obtained from the Hanna district office and the fee for the one-day meeting is $20 per person, except in the case of a spouse when it will be $10. The registration fee includes a beef lunch and supper.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC CONVERSION FOR SHOPPERS

Did you know that the final stage of metric conversion that affects food shoppers began on January 4? And did you know that all retail food scales in Canada must be in metric by the end of 1983?

However, different geographical areas will be converting at different times. In Alberta the conversion period for Edmonton and St. Albert, the counties of Strathcona, Leduc and Parkland and the municipal district of Sturgeon, for example, is from January 4, 1982 to July 31, 1982. However, the conversion period for the City of Lethbridge, the counties of Vulcan, Lethbridge and Warner, the municipal districts of Cardston, Pincher Creek, Willow Creek and Taber does not begin until January 3, 1983. It has to be completed by March 31, 1983.

Although dual advertising (prices in both imperial and metric) will be permitted until the end of 1983, the metric price must be displayed more prominently than the imperial price.

Helen Raynard of Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory suggests that when your retail store begins to use metric scales, you might like to use Bruno Gerussi's Six-Point Cope Kit.

- Relax
- Be assured that a pork chop is still a pork chop; a steak is still a steak; a roast is still is a roast; a package of hamburger is still a pack of hamburger; and that chicken that looks big enough is still big enough. This is the way most people shop and nothing will change it. Most of us can tell by looking at a meat cut or a package whether it is the amount we want.
- Remember if you are buying by weight that 500 g (grams) is a little more than a pound. There are 1000 g in a kilogram.

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Metric Conversion For Shoppers (cont'd)

. And remember if you are buying a liquid that a L (litre) is a little less than a quart. There are 1000 mL (millilitres) in a litre.

. Pick up a pamphlet entitled "Metric Shopping is Here" is your supermarket if you are doubtful about the value you are getting for your money. It contains a comparison price chart for pounds and kilograms.

. Do not try to convert recipes. Use your old measuring utensils for your old recipes and a get a set of metric measuring utensils for the new metric recipes.

January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS DURING THE WINTER

The winter months are the most difficult time of the year for house plants, and particularly for those that have leafy foliage.

Dr. Ieuan Evans of Alberta Agriculture explains that the winter is hard on house plants because the level of light is low at this time of the year, the days are short and the air is extremely dry in most houses in this part of the country. He says house plants need watering more often during the winter but that care should be taken not to overwater them. This means that they should be well watered whenever the soil is dry but that the soil should be allowed to dry out between waterings.

He also says that if the water contains appreciable to high levels of salts, you should use distilled water or melted snow. An accumulation of salts in the soil leads to additional stress on the plants. To reduce the level of chlorine in water either allow cold water to stand overnight to reach room temperature or take hot water and use it after it has cooled to near room temperature (warm to the touch). If you are in a hurry, you can use a blend of hot and cold water.

Even though many of the older leaves on foliage plants will turn yellow over the next few weeks, Dr. Evans says you should not fertilize them until early in March. The steadily lengthening days at that time start the plants growing and enable them to use the fertilizer.

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION ANNOUNCED

Don Young, assistant director of extension for Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Jacqui D'Amur to the position of assistant to the director. She will be replacing Mal Chisholm, who left to take a job with Government Services.

Mrs. D'Amur will be responsible for the division's administrative and budget areas. She will also administer The Names of Homes Act, which is the act under which the name of a home or a farm is registered.

Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture in December of 1981, Mrs. D'Amur worked with Travel Alberta, where in addition to other duties, she was responsible for administering the Home-coming 1980 program and related activities.

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January 11, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS-IN-TRAINING ANNOUNCED

Don Young, Alberta Agriculture's assistant director of extension, has announced the appointments of two district agriculturists-in-training. They are Brigette Rozema and Steve Archibald.

Brigette Rozema

Ms. Rozema will be taking her training at the Innisfail office with district agriculturist Peter Funk.

Ms. Rozema was born and raised in Edmonton. She received her B.Sc (agriculture), having specialized in agronomy, from the University of Alberta in 1981. Last summer she worked as a summer assistant district agriculturist at Vermilion.

Stephen Archibald

Mr. Archibald will be taking his training at the Claresholm office with senior district agriculturist Alan Toly.

Mr. Archibald was born and raised in Truro, Nova Scotia, and studied for three years at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in Truro. He completed his B.Sc. (agriculture) at McGill University's Macdonald College, and graduated in 1974 with an honors degree. Animal science was his area of specialization.

After leaving university, Mr. Archibald worked with Canada Packers as a feed sales representative for five and a half years. He then took over a small hog farm and a feeder operation and sold 2,400 hogs a year. He remained there until he joined Alberta Agriculture in August of 1981.

Mr. Archibald is interested in horses and holds an advanced degree in Farrier Science.

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AGRI-NEWS

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SPECIALTY SEED HARVESTER BEING MANUFACTURED IN ALBERTA

A specialty seed harvester that has been designed and successfully tested on meadow foxtail in Alberta

A specialty seed harvester that utilizes a completely new concept for harvesting grass seed will be manufactured in Alberta shortly.

It was developed as a joint project by the Pembina Forages Association, Alberta Agriculture and Vertec Industries of Vermilion in response to a request by the Pembina Forages Association for a machine that would do a more efficient job of harvesting meadow foxtail.

The header on this seed harvester consists of a reel with flexible bats which engage and hold the seed heads against a spinning wire cage that strips the mature seeds from the meadow foxtail plants as the machine passes over the field. It leaves the immature seeds and the plants intact.

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A Specialty Seed Harvester Being Manufactured In Alberta (cont'd)

A pneumatic collection arrangement draws the seeds that have been stripped into a duct which leads to a hybrid separator where they are concentrated into a small stream. A blower is used to draw off excess air through a set of louvers and the stream of seeds, plus a relatively small portion of air, are skimmed off and directed into an enclosed settling and holding tank. A duct, which leads from the suction side of the blower to the tank, maintains the flow from the skimmer into the tank. And the whole mechanism is attached to the chassis of a conventional hydrostatically-driven swather.

John Kienholz of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and resource branch, who designed and helped to build the specialty seed harvester, reports that the machine was successfully tested last summer. "In all cases", he says, "it produced samples that were much cleaner than those produced by conventional harvesting methods."

In addition to harvesting mature seeds while leaving the remainder of the crop intact and producing very clean seed, the specialty seed harvester removes the grass seed heads above the level of the weed seed heads. This means that the seed contains very few weed seeds. Another important advantage of this method of harvesting grass seed is that the crop can be harvested much sooner after a rain because a standing crop dries much faster than one in a windrow. Also, because the plants are left intact, a high quality forage can be harvested after the seed has been harvested. And shattering, weathering and immature seed losses are low compared with conventionally harvested grass seed crops.

Mr. Kienholz says that the co-operation, enthusiasm and joint working relationships of all those involved in developing the specialty seed harvester was phenomenal, and he credits this dedication with being responsible for the machine having been built and successfully tested in only one year. He expects that it will be tested next summer on a variety of other crops to determine which ones can be harvested by this new method.

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A Specialty Seed Harvester Being Manufactured In Alberta (cont'd)

The specialty seed harvester is to be manufactured by Vertec, and anybody who is interested in finding out more about the machine or in seeing it should contact Vertec Industries Ltd., Box 840, Vermilion, Alberta, T0B 4M0 (Telephone:(403) 853-2901).

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUDGET AMENDMENTS – A RETREAT NOT A SURRENDER

by Merle Good
Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta

The 32 proposed changes that the federal minister of finance, Allan MacEachen, announced on December 18, 1981 in 17 areas of his November budget, will, for the most part, only ease the transition to the new and very different taxation system under which we will now have to conduct our business. The fundamental "thrust" of the budget remains the same.

The transitional adjustments in the budget that relate to farmers can best be illustrated by dividing them into those that will affect their year-to-year business activities and those that will affect their estate planning.

Financial Operations

Capital Cost Allowance

The November 12, 1981 budget proposed that the capital cost allowance be limited to half the normal rate in the year an asset is acquired. However, to achieve a more orderly transition towards the new taxation system, it was proposed on December 18, 1981 that assets that are acquired before the end of 1982 will be eligible for a full write-off, providing that a binding written agreement was drawn up before November 13, 1981.

Another proposed change concerns farmers whose fiscal period commenced after 1981 and is less than 12 months in duration. It restricts the amount of capital cost allowance to be prorated on the basis of the number of days in the fiscal period.

A third proposed change states that the half year depreciation rule will not apply to the transfer of depreciable property to a relation if the property was owned by the person making the transfer before November 13, 1981. This means that if a farmer transfers machinery that he owned before November 13, 1981 to his son, the son will be entitled to the full

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Budget Amendments – A Retreat Not A Surrender (cont'd)

write-off rate on the equipment. However, if the father acquired the property after November 12, 1981 he must have owned it for at least 365 days before transferring it to his son for the son to be eligible for a full write-off.

Tax Accrued Interest

The proposed regulations in the November 12 budget required that deferred interest be accrued every three years and reported as income. However, these regulations were modified on December 18, 1981, again to smooth the transition period. The new regulations state that only interest earned on an annuity owned by an individual following its first anniversary after November 12, 1981, and December 31, 1981 in the case of a debt, will be accrued and taxed. If, for example, an annuity was purchased on October 10, 1981, the interest earned between that date and October 10, 1982 would not be subject to the new accrued interest rule. However, interest earned after October 10, 1982 will be accrued and deemed taxable in 1985.

Small Business Development Bonds

The Small Business Development Bond (SBDB) Program was revised again on December 18, 1981. The proposed change extends the deadline for using these bonds to expand a small business by one month or until January 31, 1982. The deadline extension will at least allow deals that were in progress before December 31, 1981 to be completed. However, after the end of January, 1982 only businesses that are in financial difficulty will be eligible for the SBDB program.

The only other important change that is proposed for the SBDB program is that the 6 per cent tax exemption to lenders will be removed. This means that the interest paid will be non-deductible in the case of the borrower and non-taxable in the case of the lender. Hence, the interest rate charge on the loans under this program should fall to its previous level.

Budget Amendments – A Retreat Not A Surrender (cont'd)

Estate Planning

Capital Gain Reserves and Income Averaging Annuities

MacEachen's November budget does not affect the rule that allows a farmer to use a tax-free rollover to transfer his farm to his children. However, since the tax-free base of farm land is usually very low, farmers are going to be forced to use the reserve provision as an alternative to making a tax-free transfer. In the case of the disposition of property that will result in a capital gain, the December 18, 1981 budget amendments propose that a reserve of up to 10 years will be permitted in circumstances where a farmer is transferring property to his children. However, if the property is being sold to a non-qualifying purchaser, such as a nephew, only a five-year reserve will be allowed.

While this proposed modified reserve provision to the budget is a welcome revision, MacEachen is still discriminating against the farming community by eliminating income averaging annuity contracts (IAAC). Income deductions will continue to be allowed for annuity contracts that were purchased before November 12, 1981, but income deductions will only be allowed for one year on contracts that were purchased after this date.

Although it was proposed on December 18, 1981 that people who had made arrangements to purchase an income averaging annuity contract before November 12, 1981 should be allowed to complete the purchase under the old rule, it appears that this provision will not apply to farmers. The fine print of the resolution states that "A number of individuals who had not technically purchased an IAAC before the budget date, but had arranged in writing to have the funds withheld from their remuneration for transfer into an IAAC will not have the budget changes on IAACs apply".

I believe that the new IAAC provision is intended to help only entertainers and athletes who had arranged to have a specific amount of money withheld from their salaries in

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Budget Amendments – A Retreat Not A Surrender (cont'd)

1981. In my opinion, the provision will not provide relief for farmers who had approached those who issue IAACs, but who had not completed the documentation of their contracts before "Budget Night".

The complexity of tax planning since November 12, 1981 has literally mushroomed into a nightmare! And further amendments and changes are still possible if not probable because the original budget and the budget modifications of December 18, are still only proposed changes to the Income Tax Act. Consequently, all taxpayers, and especially farmers, should be sure to discuss the immediate and future implications of the 1981 federal budget(s) with their accountants.

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES EXPECTED TO ATTEND CALGARY MEETING

A large number of international delegates are expected to be in Calgary from February 8 - 12 to attend the first annual meeting of the Society for Range Management that has been held in Alberta since 1964. The meeting will be held at the Calgary Inn (Westin Hotels).

The Society for Range Management is a non-profit international organization of individuals who have a common interest in the study, management and rational use of range land and related ecosystems. At the present time it has a membership of 5,000 representing about 50 countries.

Approximately 275 technical papers will be presented at the meeting. They will be divided into such categories as Range Animals; Range Plants; Soils and Water; Range Ecology; Range Management Systems; Range Inventory; Range Improvement; Land Reclamation; and Ranching Practices. The papers will be presented by research scientists; industry people,; govenment management specialists, mostly from North America; and ranchers.

The plenary session, which will feature "From the Prairies to the Pingos" will commence after lunch on Monday, February 8, with Harry Hargrave, formerly of Alberta Agriculture, chairing the session. John Merrill of Texas, U.S.A., who is president of the Society for Range Management, will open the meeting, and Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, will welcome the delegates.

On Monday evening there will be presentations on the "History of Rangeland", which will cover the history of rangeland in British Columbia, Alberta and Montana.

The plenary session will continue on Tuesday morning, February 9, with presentations on "Grazing Animals of the Northern Region". After lunch on Tuesday will be the

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start of approximately five concurrent sessions of technical papers, and these sessions will continue through Thursday, February 11.

The meeting will conclude on Friday, February 12, with a tour of Banff.

Registrations will be accepted throughout the week. The registration fee will be $60 per person except in the case of students when it will be $30, and in the case of spouses when it will be $25. This fee will cover the cost of a copy of the program and the cost of a publication which contains an abstract of all the technical papers that are presented.

Further information on the Society for Range Management's annual meeting can be obtained from Bob Wroe, Alberta Agriculture, Bag Service No.47, Lacombe, Alberta, T0L 1S0 (Telephone: 782-4641).

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONFERENCE ON MARKET PROSPECTS FOR GRAIN AND OILSEEDS

The market prospects for grain and oilseeds will be featured at a conference to be sponsored by Alberta Agriculture at the Calgary Convention Centre in Calgary on March 17 and 18.

Entitled "Accent '82", the conference is intended to help farmers to plan their production and marketing strategies over the coming year by giving them up-to-date international and Canadian outlook information for wheat, feed grains and oilseeds, including flaxseed. The speakers will also give presentations on interest rates and inflation as well as on world weather conditions and crops.

Maurice Brannan, Cargill Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A., will give the world wheat situation and outlook; and Bob Roehle, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba, will give the Canadian wheat situation and outlook.

Dr. Richard Andersen, Sparks Commodities Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, U.S.A., will give the world feed grain situation and outlook; and Peter Love, Love Feeds, Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, will give the Canadian feed grain situation and outlook.

Dr. T.A. Hieronymus, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A., will give the world oilseed situation and outlook; and Jack Smythe, United Oilseed Products Ltd., Lloydminster, Alberta, will give the Canadian canola situation and outlook.

"Accent '82" will start at one p.m. on March 17 and adjourn at 2 p.m. on March 18. Participants may choose from three registration plans. The $60 plan will cover the conference, meals and a copy of the proceedings. The $40 plan will cover the conference and the

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Conference On Market Prospects For Grain And Oilseeds (cont'd)

proceedings; not meals. And the $15 plan will cover a copy of the proceedings only. Registration forms for the $60 plan must be in by March 9.

Registration forms and further information about "Accent '82" can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district offices and the Market Analysis Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5383).

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDLOT MANAGERS' SEMINAR AT PONOKA

Total feedlot management is the theme of the fourth annual Feedlot Managers' Seminar which will be held at the Moose Hall in Ponoka on February 2.

Topics will include Respiratory Diseases of Cattle by Dr. Robert Pierson of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the Colorado State University, U.S.A. Dr. Pierson is one of the top authorities in North America on respiratory diseases in cattle, and he has an excellent slide presentation on pneumonias. He is expected to emphasize the relationship between pneumonias and other feedlot diseases.

Dr. Pierson has been on the faculty of the Colorado State University for the last 28 years, during which time his main interest has been diseases of feedlot cattle and sheep.

Health and Production Record Keeping Systems by Dr. Eugene Jansen, associate professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, will be the next topic on the agenda. Dr. Jansen, who has a master's degree in preventive medicine, is a beef cattle specialist in the teaching hospital at the college. He also has a regular feedlot practice and uses computer recordings and data analysis from two feedlots in Saskatchewan.

Feeding Various Cattle Breeds for Optimum Performance by Dr. R. Hironoka of the federal research station in Lethbridge and Dr. Mick Price, professor of animal science at the University of Alberta, is the third topic. Dr. Hironoka has been in Lethbridge since 1959, and his major work has been in feedlot nutrition. Dr. Price has been at the University of Alberta since 1974 and his main research has been on the use of bulls for beef production.

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Feedlot Managers' Seminar At Ponoka (cont'd)

There will also be a producer panel where members will illustrate how they use their health and production methods.

The registration fee for the Feedlot Managers' Seminar, which will start at 9 a.m. on February 2, is $20 per person or $25 per couple. This fee covers lunch. To register or to obtain more details on the seminar contact one of the following district offices.

Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Rimbey or Lacombe.

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"COOKING FOR ONE OR TWO"

Cooking for one or two does not need to be a time-consuming, boring job nor does it need to mean that mealtimes must become a series of leftovers for days on end.

To help those who cook for only or two people to overcome these problems and those associated with the facts that most cookbooks and packaged food sold in grocery stores are designed for families of four or five people, Alberta Agriculture's home economists have compiled a publication called "Cooking for One or Two".

Helen Raynard of the home economics laboratory says that this 54-page booklet contains many ideas and suggestions as well as recipes to make meals for one or two people more interesting. Its "thumb tip" index means that the person who uses it will get instant ideas on planning meals, shopping for them, using leftovers and serving meals for only one or two people. In essence, it is intended to make it possible for single people to eat and enjoy well balanced meals.

Free copies of "Cooking for One or Two" (Homedex No.1121-51) can be obtained from district home economists or from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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January 18, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR OF AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT BRANCH APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's processing development branch, Dr. W.W. Ballantyne, has announced the appointment of Don Macyk to the position of supervisor of the project development section.

In his new position, Mr. Macyk will be responsible for extending value-added food and feed processing in Alberta and for creating processing options for primary agricultural production. He will also be responsible for expanding existing operations and for encouraging the development of new projects.

In conjunction with the project development section staff, Mr. Macyk will provide an extension service for the food processing industry, and he may become involved in such aspects of business development as locating plant sites, sourcing raw products, advising on financial alternatives, providing information on market opportunities and making the industry aware of appropriate government programs.

Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Macyk was international trade director for the United States in Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector. Before that he was an analyst with the department's market analysis branch.

He was raised on a farm near Waskatenau and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta.

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AGRI-NEWS

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILDLIFE RANCHING RESEARCH

A domestic moose and a white tailed deer fawn at the University of Alberta's Ministic Lake research area.

Did you know that Alberta has a Wildlife Productivity and Management Program and a wildlife research area at Ministic Lake, 30 km east of Edmonton?

The Wildlife Productivity and Management Program was established by the University of Alberta in 1974 to explore the possibility of raising certain species of wild animals on marginal agricultural lands in northern Alberta. And the Ministic Lake research area was established jointly by the university and the provincial fish and wildlife division in 1977 to facilitate the study of complementary grazing systems so that ecologically-efficient and economically viable management systems can be designed for the domestic production of wildlife.

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Wildlife Ranching Research (cont'd)

The Ministic Lake research area consists of 250 hectares that is stocked with small herds of bison, moose and wapiti (elk). According to Dr. R.J. Hudson of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science, who is in charge of the research, interest in raising bison has waxed and waned over the last 150 years, but the future for domestically rearing these animals is bright. He says it is true that they are less productive in good agricultural areas than cattle, but, because they are hardy and need less care than cattle, their popularity will increase as ranches become less capital and less energy intensive.

He also says that moose, which were kept on a number of homesteads in Western Canada during the 1800's, are easy to domesticate, but that they do not thrive in captivity and that they require a large foraging area. However, despite the fact that there are no viable economic enterprises in Russia, where their agricultural potential has been explored for many years, Dr. Hudson believes that moose could be useful members of a mixture of wildlife species on northern ranches. His reason for believing this is that the feeding pattern of moose complements the feeding patterns of other wildlife species.

According to Dr. Hudson, his research points to a very bright future for the domestic production of wapiti, which he says, are easy to manage, hardy, resistant to disease and productive. He also says that there is already a strong demand for these animals in Western Canada and in New Zealand. In Western Canada people are interested in raising them to sell as breeding stock and for the production of semen and antler velvet. A mature male wapiti can produce more than 5 kg of velvet in a year, which will fetch about $200 per kg on international markets. The semen sells for about $50 a vial.

Dr. Hudson reports that Alberta's Indian bands are very keen to get into the production of wapiti, and he feels they have a good chance of getting first priority because they

Wildlife Ranching Research (cont'd)

have plenty of the right type of land. He also feels that, since many of their traditional hunting rights are being seriously threatened, they should have priority for the limited supply of breeding stock that will be available.

At the present time New Zealand is the main market for wapiti, where Canadian breeding stock and semen is wanted for improving that country's thriving red deer industry. Dr. Hudson says some wapiti have been sent to places like the Western Veterinary College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for reproductive research and the collection of semen for which there is a large market in New Zealand.

Although the red deer industry in New Zealand was one of the original stimuli for the University of Alberta's wildlife research, Dr. Hudson points out that deer farming in that country is carried out on the best agricultural land, while in Western Canada the emphasis is on producing them on marginal land in northern regions without becoming involved in the expense and environmental impact of large-scale land clearing.

Further information on the above research can be obtained from Dr. R.J. Hudson, Department of Animal Science, Room 310, Agriculture Forestry Centre, University of Alberta, T6G 2P5.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPLICATIONS FOR ALBERTA BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP SUPPORT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Application forms for assistance under the Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program will be available from all district agriculturist offices from the first week of February. March 31, 1982 is the deadline for receipt of applications.

According to the head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, Bruce Jeffery, it is anticipated that there could be as many as 90,000 applications under this program, which offers a one-time payment to cattle and sheep producers who suffered from depressed livestock prices and escalating costs in 1981.

The program has three categories under which beef producers can apply for assistance and two options under which sheep producers can apply.

The three beef categories are: Beef Cattle — Herd Maintenance, which allows for the payment of $50 per head on 90 per cent of a breeding herd and covers both bred cows and bred replacement heifers; Backgrounder Cattle, which allows for a payment of $4 per 100 pounds of live weight; and Slaughter Cattle and Slaughter Calves, which allows for a payment of $4 per hundredweight.

Under the first option for sheep, the program allows for a payment of $10 per head on 90 per cent of the breeding flock and a payment of $4 per 100 pounds of live weight for slaughter and feeder lambs. The second option allows for a payment of $10 per animal on all lambs sold for slaughter.

The eligibility criteria for both cattle and sheep producers include such things as residency, time of inventory and time of purchase and sale transactions.

You can obtain complete details on the Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program from your district agriculturist.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONVERTING FARM TRUCKS TO PROPANE

Anyone who uses more than 4,000 litres (L) of fuel per year in his farm truck will find it worthwhile to convert to propane.

This is the opinion of Edwin Thornton of Alberta Agriculture's engineering resource branch. He says a properly tuned propane-powered vehicle will give a very similar performance to that obtained from a gasoline-powered vehicle. However, if the vehicle is converted for dual performance, the performance from either fuel will suffer.

Mr. Thornton says a propane-powered engine has 4 to 6 per cent less power than a gasoline-powered engine at high speeds, mainly because the propane vapor displaces the air going into the engine. He explains that propane has more energy for the same weight as gasoline, but that it has 25 per cent less energy than gasoline on a volume basis. Since consumption is about 10 per cent higher than for gasoline, a person can expect to get 10 to 15 per cent less mileage with propane than with gasoline, but, from the point of view of engine wear, propane is the better fuel. Because it burns cleaner, there is less fouling of the spark plugs and less contamination of oil. According to Mr. Thornton, most propane users experience less maintenance with propane than they did with gasoline.

What about the cost of propane compared with gasoline? The price for propane in Edmonton on January 1, 1982 was 15.8¢ per L for propane compared with 31.4¢ per L for gasoline. "If you average 20,000 km per year at 16 L per 100 km, it would take you two and a half years to pay for the conversion, which costs about $1,000", Mr. Thornton says. After this payback period, the cost of travelling any distance will be just over half that incurred by using gasoline.

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Converting Farm Trucks To Propane (cont'd)

The fittings, valves, lines, etc. required for converting the average farm truck to propane cost from $500 to $600 and the labor costs about $200. The tank can cost anywhere from $350 to $800, depending upon its size. However, farmers, corporations and municipalities can obtain a federal grant of $400 to reduce the overall conversion cost. Information and application forms for these grants can be obtained through the Propane Grant Program, Energy, Mines and Resources, Box 3500, Ottawa, Ontario, KIS 5K6.

Some people worry about the safety of propane. Again, according to Mr. Thornton, it is as safe or safer than gasoline. Because a propane tank is much stronger than a gasoline tank, a propane-powered vehicle that is involved in a rear end collision or overturned in an accident would be much safer than a gasoline-powered vehicle.

Another concern expressed by some is that propane-powered vehicles do not start in cold weather. Mr. Thornton says they are no different in this respect than gasoline-powered vehicles.

Mr. Thornton stresses that it is false economy to convert a worn engine to propane in the hopes that it will give better performance, and that it is rarely economical to convert present day gasoline-powered tractors. He says these are not usually used enough to warrant the cost involved in converting them.

And the manufacturers of diesel engines frown upon the use of propane to boost the output of their engines. All warranties would be voided. Basically, propane should not be used in diesel engines.

Although it is possible to convert a gasoline-powered engine to a propane-powered engine yourself, providing you follow the strict rules laid out in the Canadian Gas Association CAN 1 - B149.2-M80 code book, Mr. Thornton believes it could be false economy. He points

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Converting Farm Trucks To Propane (cont'd)

out that you should have automobile testing equipment for timing, etc. and a good understanding of the principles involved.

Most propane dealerships will do the conversion for you or know where you can get it done, and some private garages are starting to do conversions. Your local propane dealer should also be able to tell you where you can get the conversion equipment.

Mr. Thornton says his branch will be releasing a fact sheet in the spring on the technicalities involved in converting a gasoline-powered engine to a propane-powered engine.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRUB-IN-THE-HEAD CONDITION IN SHEEP

A preliminary survey carried out in Alberta last spring showed that 75 per cent of the sheep flocks that were sampled suffered from a condition known as grub-in-the-head. In this condition the grubs are actually in the nasal passage of the sheep.

Dr. Ali Khan, a pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture who was in charge of the survey, reports that this figure is based on the results obtained by Dr. P. Nation of the government laboratory at Airdrie who examined the heads of slaughter sheep that had been collected from the provincially-owned Lambco plant in Innisfail. The sheep that were found to be infested came from the Brooks, High River, Wetaskiwin, Bluffton, Rimbey, Innisfail, Manville, Ohaton and Red Deer areas.

The sheep become infested during the summer when the female nasal botfly darts at them with tremendous speed and deposits live larvae (not eggs) in their nostrils. The larvae crawl up the mucous lining of the nasal passage into the frontal and maxillary sinuses where they complete their development during the winter. The following spring they work their way down the nasal passage and are sneezed out on to the ground where they pupate. If the temperature and soil moisture conditions are favorable, they emerge as adult flies and start the cycle over again.

When adult nasal botflies are active (on warm days), the sheep will become nervous, bunch together and keep their heads down. Typical symptoms of the grub-in-the-head condition include a runny nose, caused by the larva's spiny-covered skin, which, in turn, causes a constant irritation and frequent sneezing. The sneezing is brought on by the sticky

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Grub-In-The-Head Condition In Sheep (cont'd)

mucous that develops in the nasal passage. Sheep suffering from grub-in-the-head also shake their heads vigorously and a few may grate their teeth and display a high-stepping gait and uncoordinated movements.

Dr. Khan says animals that are severely infested with larvae will cease to eat properly. And the larvae may set up an inflammation in the frontal sinuses. If they erode the bones of the skull, they can injure the brain. In addition, dead larvae in the nasal passage give-off toxic substances that may cause a host-parasite reaction.

According to Dr. Khan, more than 90 per cent of the sheep in the southwestern United States suffer from grub-in-the-head, and the total annual loss to the American sheep industry from this condition is $8 million.

Because Alberta Agriculture's preliminary survey indicates only that the larvae which cause grub-in-the-head are present in the province, Dr. Khan would like sheep producers to report any suspected cases so that he can establish the prevalence and distribution of this condition. Such reports should be made to Alberta Agriculture's sheep technicians, district agriculturists or agricultural fieldmen or to Dr. Ali Khan, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-9051).

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANOLA SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Alberta Agriculture, in conjunction with the Canola Council of Canada and the Alberta Canola Growers Association, is sponsoring canola production and marketing seminars in February.

They will be held on the following dates in the north and central parts of the province.

Production Seminar	Fairview	February 8
Marketing Seminar	Fairview	February 9
Production Seminar	Lloydminster	February 15
Marketing Seminar	Lloydminster	February 16
Marketing Seminar	Innisfail	February 23
Production Seminar	Innisfail	February 24

Alberta Agriculture, in conjunction with the Alberta Canola Growers Association, is also sponsoring a series of limited enrollment canola marketing workshops. They will be held at the following places on the following dates.

Vulcan	February 2
Camrose	February 10
Edmonton	February 25

Information on registration and program details can be obtained from your regional economist and from district agriculturists at the location where the seminars and workshops are to be held.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USE COLOSTRUM TO STOP DAIRY CALF DEATHS

There is no better or more potent drug for a new-born dairy calf than colostrum, according to Alberta Agriculture's dairy specialist, Tony Aspeslet.

Colostrum is the milk a cow produces during her first milking after she has calved, and Mr. Aspeslet would like to see dairy farmers place more emphasis on the correct feeding of this milk to prevent disease. He points out that there are twice as many antibodies in the milk from the first milking after a cow has calved as there are in the milk from the second milking, and that a calf's ability to absorb these antibodies decreases rapidly between its birth and its first 24 hours of life.

Mr. Aspeslet recommends giving a dairy calf two quarts of warm colostrum within an hour of its birth and another two quarts at 12 hour intervals for three more feedings. He also points out that the antibodies in the colostrum can give resistance to disease for six to eight months.

To ensure that you have enough colostrum on hand when you need it, Mr. Aspeslet suggests setting up a colostrum "bank", which should contain the colostrum or first milk from several mature cows. He does not recommend "banking" the colostrum from heifers because their milk is not as rich in antibodies as the milk of a mature cow.

Milk that is to be "banked" should be put into two-quart plastic jugs and kept in a cooler for 24 hours. If it is not needed during this time, it can be frozen and removed from the freezer 12 hours before it is to be used.

Mr. Aspeslet reports that dairy calf deaths range from 4 to 32 per cent, and that these losses could be reduced by at least 10 per cent if all dairy calves were given an adequate amount of colostrum during their first 24 hours of life.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PROPER CARE FOR DOWN-FILLED GARMENTS

"With proper care the insulating quality of the down in a down-filled garment can be preserved for many years, says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's clothing and textile specialist.

She recommends carefully following the manufacturer's directions on the care label of the garment and avoiding frequent cleaning. She points out that frequent cleaning tends to cause the down to lose some of its fluffiness and the outer shell of the garment to lose some of its water repellency. To prevent loss of down when the garment has to be cleaned, be sure to repair any split seams or holes before it is cleaned," says Ms. Eggertson.

If washing is recommended on the care label of your garment, you can wash it by hand, if it is not very dirty, or by machine. Ms. Eggertson says a front-loading machine is the best type to use for washing a down-filled garment, and that you should use the "delicate" cycle. She also recommends pre-treating stains and heavily solid areas.

You should always use a mild soap in cool to warm water when washing a down garment. Ms. Eggertson says there are special products on the market for washing down garments such as Nu-Down and Down Suds. She recommends submerging the garment gently in the water, squeezing out all the air and soaking the garment for a short time after a brief washing period in the machine. Then start the machine again and allow it to continue through the "delicate" cycle. Check to make sure that all the soap has been rinsed out of the down because if any residue is left it could cause the down to mat, thereby reducing its insulating quality.

Dry the garment at a low to medium dryer setting and put two clean bath towels into the dryer with it to absorb the moisture and a pair of clean running shoes. By beating against the garment, the running shoes will fluff up the down. And finally, be sure that you have removed all the moisture from the garment because down can mildew.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE ISSUES COORDINATOR APPOINTED

Keith Price, head of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, has appointed a coordinator to assess all information on current issues that pertain to pesticides with particular emphasis on their health and environmental hazards and their impact on agriculture. He is Dr. Moe Hussain.

Dr. Hussain has had many years of experience in teaching and research in the areas of human health and the effects of pesticides on the environment. His reponsibilities with Alberta Agriculture will include educational programs for farmers, agricultural officers, and high schools. He will also give interviews, issue press releases and prepare materials to enlighten the public on pesticide concerns.

Dr. Hussain grew up on a sugar plantation in Guyana and came to Canada in 1966 to attend McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He graduated from McGill in 1970 with a B.Sc. in zoology having majored in cell biology. He then got a research assistantship in toxicology of foam dusts at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, and enrolled in an M.Sc. program. He graduated in 1973 with an M.Sc. in toxicology.

From 1975 to 1979 he worked as a research assistant in toxicology of pesticides at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, and embarked on his Ph.D. in toxicology. After obtaining his Ph.D. in 1979, he took a P.D.F. in toxicology of pesticides at the same university.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENT

John Calpas, director of extension for Alberta Agriculture, and Doug MacKenzie, regional director at Red Deer, have announced the appointment of Hector Goudreau to the position of senior district agriculturist at Wetaskiwin. He succeeds Don Young who was recently appointed assitant director of the extension division.

As senior district agriculturist, Mr. Goudreau will be responsible for coordinating Alberta Agriculture's programs in the Wetaskiwin sub-region. He will also be responsible for supervising the district agriculturists in the sub-regional offices of Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Ponoka and Rimbey.

He comes to Wetaskiwin from the Falher office where he was district agriculturist and senior district agriculturist for seven years. He took his district agriculturist training at the Valleyview district office before going to Falher.

Mr. Goudreau is from the Beaumont area, and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1972 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). He has a general sciences background.

He recently returned from New South Wales, Australia, where he completed a one-year agricultural extension exchange project at Cowra.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST TRANSFERS

Don Young, Alberta Agriculture's assistant director of extension, has announced the transfers of district agriculturists to Brooks, High River and Lacombe.

Brian Palichuk

Mr. Palichuk has been transferred to Brooks after having completed his training in Peace River with senior district agriculturist Fred De Mille. Mr. Palichuk was raised in the Smoky Lake area and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1981 with a B.Sc. (agriculture). During the summer of 1980, he was employed as a summer assistant district agriculturist at Taber.

Dave Plett

Mr. Plett has been appointed district agriculturist at High River. He had spent the previous three years at the Coronation office. He comes from Gretna, Manitoba, and graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1978 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having specialized in animal science. Following graduation he joined Alberta Agriculture and took his district agriculturist training at the Sedgewick office under Glen Werner.

Neil Miller

Mr. Miller has been appointed district agriculturist at Lacombe. He was transferred from the Red Deer office where he had worked for nine years. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1959, having specialized in poultry science. Mr. Miller is no stranger to the Lacombe office having worked there from 1969 to 1972.

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District Agriculturist Transfers (cont'd)

Stuart Tucker

Mr. Tucker has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Lacombe where he will replace Gerry Winia who resigned to accept a position with the Bank of Montreal. However, Mr. Tucker will remain at the Ponoka office until Rick Williams returns from educational leave. Mr. Tucker is a 1976 B.Sc. (agriculture) graduate from the University of Alberta where he specialised in animal science.

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January 25, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO RIMBEY

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the appointment of Trina Rentmeister to the position of district home economist at Rimbey.

Ms. Rentmeister will be helping the rural public in the Rimbey area to develop their daily living skills and knowledge. She plans to cover such topics as management, finances, nutrition, clothing and textiles, home design, conservation and consumer information via local newspapers and radio stations, group presentations and individual contacts.

She grew up on a mixed farm near Stavely and obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1981. Her major was food and nutrition.

Ms. Rentmeister's previous job experience includes working at the 4-H staff head office in Edmonton in 1979 where she helped to organize and present 4-H Club Week and 4-H Expressions. The following year she was a district home economist summer assistant at Lethbridge where she helped to present courses, conducted radio talks, wrote newspaper columns, etc.

Ms. Rentmeister took her district home economist training at Ponoka under Randi Sandbu.

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AGRI-NEWS

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January 27, 1982

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERINARY RESEARCH GRANT WILL HELP ALBERTA CATTLE

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, Dr. R.G. Christian, says he is pleased to see that the Max Bell Foundation of Toronto, Ontario, has provided a $395,000 grant over a three-year period to the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for shipping fever research.

He also says that the shipping fever disease complex is the most costly one that affects Canadian cattle, and that the emphasis of the research will be directed towards developing a vaccine to prevent its occurrence.

Shipping fever is the term that is used to describe the respiratory infection that commonly occurs in cattle after they have been stressed by weaning, mixing, handling, transportation, bad weather or any combination of stress factors. A variety of infectious agents, which include viruses and bacteria, are often involved. The most important bacterium is *Pasteurella hemolytica*, which often causes a severe, fatal pneumonia.

Dr. Christian reports that shipping fever is the subject of considerable current research at VIDO and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, as well as at the federal Animal Disease Research Institute in Lethbridge. He says funding for the project at VIDO is a significant step towards solving a serious problem in Alberta cattle.

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A CRITICAL TIME FOR BEEF COWS

by Ross Gould
Beef Cattle Special Projects Section, Alberta Agriculture

The last three months before a beef cow calves is one of two critical periods in her reproductive cycle. The other is the 80 days between when she calves and when she should conceive her next calf. The beef producer's management decisions regarding these two critical periods often decide the profit or loss he will sustain in his operation.

Feeding for Two

As a beef cow enters her last three months of pregnancy, her calf is starting to grow rapidly. In fact, 70 per cent of fetal growth occurs during this period, and the calf's weight increases from about 15 pounds to 70, 80 or more pounds by the time it is born. Consequently, we must feed to maintain the cow and to grow a calf at the rate of almost a pound a day. And, because the unborn calf consists mainly of protein, the need for protein in the mother's diet also increases as calving time approaches.

Disease Resistance

Proper nutrition for a beef cow in late pregnancy is important for more than just the growth of her calf. It has many important implications for the calf from the points of view of diseases at birth and its resistance to stress. A cow which has been properly fed will be in the best position to supply enough colostrum and milk to a healthy calf.

Reproduction

The level of energy fed to a cow before she calves will affect her reproductive performance in the next breeding season. If she is to calve every 365 days, she must be bred within 83 days after she calves. If she conceives late in the breeding season, she will produce

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A Critical Time For Beef Cows (cont'd)

a calf that is small at weaning time. And some cows that are underfed before they calve will not conceive before the end of the breeding season, which means they will either have to be culled or carried over as expensive "boarders"! A lack of feed intake or the ingestion of a low quality feed and poor management in late winter and early spring are probably the main causes of poor reproductive performance in beef cattle.

Practical Suggestions

Nutrition

The daily intake of energy and protein should be gradually increased from the beginning of January to the end of March until a beef cow is getting about 20 per cent more feed than she was getting earlier in the winter. A good manager usually keeps his better quality forage for this time of year to ensure that his cows will eat enough to meet their nutritional needs. It is also quite common to provide extra energy and protein during this period by supplementing forage with grain. A feed analysis will ensure a balanced ration that meets the needs of the cow herd and eliminates any waste of supplements or grain.

Winter Cold

Nutritionists suggest that beef cows should be fed an extra 30 per cent of feed for every 10° C fall in temperature below -20° C at mid-day.

Divide the Herd

Older and weak cows and first-calf heifers should be separated from the main herd in late winter and fed according to their needs. They require more feed than the main herd, and very thin cows should be fed to gain during the entire winter.

Mineral Supplements

A free-choice mineral-salt mixture that will provide the proper amount of phosphorous in a 1:1 or higher phosphorous-calcium formulation should be fed, and such trace

(cont'd) -

A Critical Time For Beef Cows (cont'd)

minerals as selenium should be provided when required. Magnesium may be needed if late winter tetany has been a problem in the past.

Watch Cows

Cows should be checked in late pregnancy for such things as prolapse, abortions and unexpectedly early calves. However, they should be handled as little as possible to avoid causing injuries that could bring on these problems.

Parasite Problems

Cows should also be checked and treated if necessary for lice, which often build up in late winter. Dust bags and pour-on treatments are alternatives to spraying that can be used during cold weather.

Any warble grubs that escaped during last fall's treatment can be killed with a systemic insecticide in mid-March or with a contact insecticide when the grub holes open along the cattle's backs.

Late Evening Feeding

Cattlemen and researchers have found that feeding cows in the late evening results in up to 80 per cent or more of the calves being born during daylight hours.

Planning Ahead

Now is the time to plan ahead for your calving season. Collect and repair all calving equipment and prepare an area ("hospital area") for difficult cases. And purchase all necessary sanitation equipment like obstetrical gloves, soap, lubricants, etc.

Many good beef cow managers will begin now to collect and freeze colostrum from early calving cows or from a neighbor's dairy herd to supplement the colostrum of first-

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A Critical Time For Beef Cows (cont'd)

calf heifers when this is necessary. Be sure you have bottles, nipples, probe feeders, electrolyte solutions and medications for scours ready for the calving season.

And remember, a well fed beef cow herd and properly prepared facilities will go a long way towards insuring a vigorous calf crop and a successful subsequent breeding season.

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMPUTER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ALBERTA FARMERS

Alberta Agriculture's engineering resource branch has developed a number of computer programs to help farmers analyze various design and management alternatives and to help them choose the one that is best suited to their specific operation. These programs are available free of charge to all farmers in Alberta.

They include the following:

. Truss Design -- This program calculates a design for specific clear-span gable-roofed trusses. It takes into account such factors as the size of the building, snow load and type of lumber used.

. Ventilation Design — This program will calculate the ventilation and heating requirements for cattle, swine and poultry buildings of various sizes and construction specifications.

. Farm Building Cost Analysis - This program will estimate the cost of constructing a farm building, provide a partial bill of materials and estimate the amount of labor required.

. Grain Dryer Simulation -- This program simulates the mechanical drying of various crops and predicts dryer performance (energy consumption, drying rate, etc.) and drying costs.

. Grain Harvesting and Drying Simulation — This program simulates the total grain harvesting operation. It can be used to evaluate various grain harvesting and drying alternatives on the basis of the total system's performance and cost. It can also be used to evaluate alternative equipment combinations and sizes.

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Computer Programs Available To Alberta Farmers (cont'd)

. Alternate Energy Cost Analysis — This program performs a cost analysis of alternate heat sources by considering such factors as investment, interest, service charge and fuel price.

. Building Environmental Control Analysis — This program predicts the inside temperature and relative humidity within livestock buildings and greenhouses. Such things as building design, heat and moisture, production from livestock and plants, and solar radiation from the sun are considered. The program can be used to design ventilating and heating systems, to predict annual energy consumption and to evaluate design alternatives such as extra insulation and building orientation.

. Estimating Annual Home Heating Requirements — This program estimates the annual cost of heating a home by calculating the heat loss from each component of the building (ceiling, walls, basement, etc.). By altering either the area and/or the insulative value of one or more of the components, the cost savings and the payback period for making the modifications can be calculated. This program is particularly useful for assessing the cost effectiveness of retrofitting a home.

Farmers who would like to take advantage of one or more of these programs should contact their regional engineer, agricultural engineering specialist or the Engineering Resource Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. "Input" forms and assistance in completing them and in interpreting results are also available from these sources.

January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUTCH ELM DISEASE SITUATION IN ALBERTA

An annual survey carried out last summer by staff at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville has once again shown no evidence of elm bark beetles, which carry Dutch elm disease, in the province, but residents are urged to keep up their vigilance.

Marilyn Steiner, an entomologist at the centre, reports that the survey involved setting out traps at Taber, Medicine Hat, Cypress Hills, Foremost, Writing-on-Stone, Milk River, Cardston, Waterton, Pincher Creek and Lethbridge. She also reports that three types of traps were used. One was the sticky pheromone trap which was tacked to poles and non-elm trees. It was used for the European elm bark beetle *(Seolytus multistriatus)*. Another type of trap that was used was the non-baited sticky trap which was tacked to elm trees to trap both the European and the native elm bark beetle *(Hylurgopinus rufipes)* and the third type of trap consisted of elm logs which had been cut from living trees in the spring. The logs were used to attract egg-laying females of both beetle species, but especially the native elm bark beetle.

These traps were also set up in parks and towns along the Saskatchewan, Montana and British Columbia borders where tourists and travellers might bring in beetles and infested elm wood from infested areas.

Ms. Steiner points out that although Alberta is still in the enviable position of not, as far as is known, having any elm bark beetles, there is no reason to suppose that they would have any difficulty in becoming established if they were once introduced. For this reason she urges both individuals and municipal personnel to keep their elm trees healthy and well pruned and to report any suspicious symptoms such as wilting, flagging or leaf yellowing to the Northern Forest Research Centre, 5320-122 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 3S5 (Telephone: 435 7210).

Both Ontario and Manitoba have lost a large portion of their elms to Dutch elm disease, and it is continuing to spread westward. Saskatchewan had its first confirmed case of

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Dutch Elm Disease Situation In Alberta (cont'd)

last summer when an infected tree was discovered in a Regina cemetery. In Alberta Dutch elm disease and its two beetle vectors were named pests in 1978 under the Agricultural Pests Act. Since that time surveys have been conducted every year because early detection of the beetles and a follow-up examination for the Dutch elm disease fungus on any beetles that are trapped is considered essential if the disease is to be nipped in the bud. The prompt implementation of such control measures as removing the infected tree and spraying healthy trees in the area are very important for preventing the disease from spreading to surrounding areas, especially in urban centres. Forty per cent (40,000 trees) of the boulevard trees in Edmonton alone are American elms. However, unlike Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Alberta does not have any native elm stands.

Ms. Steiner says three promising new methods of controlling Dutch elm disease were reported at the Dutch Elm Disease Symposium that was held in Winnipeg last fall. They are the use of an antagonistic strain of bacterium, ***Pseudomonas syringae***, which is injected into elm trees; the release of a nematode which parasitizes elm bark beetles; and the development by staff at Agriculture Canada's research station at Morden of a Japanese elm that is resistant to Dutch elm disease.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOURCES OF FARM BUSINESS CREDIT

Farmers who are shopping around for a farm loan or who plan to do so in the future may be interested in a recently revised publication entitled "Sources of Farm Business Credit".

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, it contains a complete list of credit agencies in the province that offer farm loans, and it gives a brief outline of the terms and conditions of each loan. The institutions listed include the Agricultural Development Corporation, the Farm Credit Corporation, the Federal Business Development Bank, credit unions, chartered banks and treasury branches.

The publication also describes the terms and conditions of farm improvement loans, feeder association guarantee loans and Canadian Wheat Board advances.

Copies of "Sources of Farm Business Credit" (Agdex 832) can be obtained from district agriculturists; the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO; the Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

A former deputy-secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, Dale Hathaway, will be the keynote speaker at the Western Canadian Economic Conference to be held at the Terrace Inn in Edmonton on February 15 and 16. He is now a member of the Consultants International Group Inc., of Washington, D.C., and he will be speaking on "Agricultural Exports in an Uncertain World – A View of the 1980's.

The conference will touch on many topics that are related to the Western Canadian economy and the development of the Alberta food industry. They will include inflation, interest rates, labor and other subjects that have a bearing on the conference theme –– "1982 – A Year of Challenge in the Food Industry".

The conference is designed to provide leaders in the food industry and related organizations with current economic information and to explore the short and medium-term economic future of the food industry in Western Canada. It will also examine alternative strategies for dealing with uncertainties in this industry and will include two panel discussions.

It will be conducted by the Rural Education and Development Association in cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Economic Development and the University of Alberta's Rural Economy and Extension departments. The Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, Burns Foods, Unifarm, the Alberta Grocers Wholesale, the Alberta Food Processors and the Faculty of Extension are among those who will be participating.

Further information about the conference and information on registering can be obtained from the Rural Education and Development Association, 14815 -119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9 (Telephone: 451-5959).

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL 1982

With the recent blizzards and -35 ° C temperatures that we have been experiencing in Alberta, it is hard to realize that spring is less than four months away. Spring is the time when a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of tractors, seed drills, fertilizers, weed chemicals and all the other things that contribute to another hectic crop year.

Ted Darling, district agriculturist at Vegreville, reports that most of the major chemical manufacturers, in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture, will be presenting a series of weed control update seminars in February to help farmers to make their spring plans.

Entitled "Weed Control 1982", the seminars will consist of two brief presentations which will be followed by informal conversations for the balance of the day with representatives of the more than 10 chemical companies that will be taking part.

Following are the locations and dates of the seminars:

Viking – Community Hall	February 15
Vegreville – Chateau Dining Hall	February 16
Two Hills – Centennial Hall	February 17
Lamont – Recreation Centre	February 18

The seminars will begin with registrations and coffee at about 10 a.m. and should be finished by 3.30 p.m.

"By pooling our resources", says Mr. Darling, "we hope to be able to better serve the interests of cereal, oilseed and special crop producers in the northeastern part of central Alberta.

For more information on these free seminars, please contact the district office at Ryley, Vegreville, Two Hills or Lamont.

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEPING THE FARM IN THE FAMILY

Alberta Agriculture's northwest region will be holding two seminars that will outline a number of ways of keeping the family farm in the family.

One seminar will be held at the Westlock Inn in Westlock on February 24, and the other will be held at the Henry Marshall Tory Building at the University of Alberta in Edmonton on February 25. The seminar that will be held at the university will be part of the special activities that have been planned for Agriculture Week.

The following topics will be covered at both seminars: Transferring the Farm; Tax Considerations; Operating Agreements; Partnerships; Corporations; Financing; and Working Together in Farm Management. Speakers will include Cal Brandley, solicitor, Alberta Agriculture, Merle Good, farm management specialist, Alberta Agriculture; and Bob Simmermon, leadership development specialist, Alberta Agriculture.

The seminars are being held in response to the increasing interest on part of the sons and daughters of farmers in seeking out ways of becoming involved in the family farm. One of the main reasons for this trend is the high cost of farm land and other farm assets which are making it extremely difficult for young people to begin farming on their own.

Both seminar will start at 9.30 a.m., and anyone who is interested in attending is asked to pre-register by contacting his or her local district office.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROSSBREEDING SEMINAR AT RIMBEY

"How to Get More Pounds per Calf through Breeding" is the theme of a crossbreeding beef cattle seminar that will be held in the Community Hall in Rimbey on February 11.

Brian Wilson, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rimbey says those taking part in the seminar will look at the economic advantages and disadvantages of crossbreeding. Dr. Roy Berg of the University of Alberta will discuss the genetic principles involved in beef cattle breeding, while Robin Elofson, a feedlot operator from Ponoka, will present the feedlot industry's view on livestock breeding.

Dr. Berg, John Stewart-Smith of Beef Booster and Dr. Jack Neuman of the federal research station in Lacombe will evaluate specific beef cattle crosses. The seminar will conclude with a producer panel, the members of which will outline how they manage their own crossbreeding systems.

The registration fee for the crossbreeding beef cattle seminar will be $10 per person or $15 per couple. If received by February 5, the fee will cover lunch.

For further information on the seminar or to register, please contact the district office in Lacombe, Rocky Mountain House, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka or Rimbey.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUB-REGION SOIL FERTILITY SEMINAR

Alberta Agriculture's district offices at Sedgewick, Coronation and Stettler will be jointly hosting a sub-regional soil fertility seminar for east-central Alberta in the Stettler Memorial Hall on February 19.

Topics will include Soil Testing and Background Research; Soil Testing, Interpretation and Recommendations; Crop Nutrient Requirements (micro-nutrients); Nutrient Banking, Balance, Uptake and Availability; Fertility Placement, Methods and Effectiveness and Nutrient Losses; Can You afford Not to Fertilize?; and Alternatives to Fertilizers.

The registration fee is $15 per person and $20 per couple, and the deadline for receipt of registrations is February 15. Cheques should be made payable to Agriculture Trust Account and mailed to Alberta Agriculture, Postal Bag 600, Stettler, Alberta, T0C 2L0.

You can get details on the sub-regional soil fertility seminar by contacting Andy Birch, district agriculturist, Stettler (Telephone:742-4481); Peter Gamache, district agriculturist, Sedgewick (Telephone: 384-3737) or the district office at Coronation (Telephone: 578-3970).

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January 27, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY APPOINTMENTS

Ed Bristow, head of Alberta Agriculture's dairy farm inspection branch, has announced the appointments of Tracy Dow, Christina Knuetter and Linda Hamilton.

Tracy Dow

Mr. Dow has been appointed dairy specialist for the Lethbridge area where he will be responsible for all dairy farm inspections in southern Alberta. He was raised on a dairy farm in the Lethbridge region and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1970 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science with an emphasis on nutrition and genetics.

Mr. Dow has spent the last 11 years as a feed sales representative with the Shur-Gain Division of Canada Packers Inc. In this position he was responsible for feed sales, management recommendations, the promotion of animal health products, public relations and the collection of accounts in southern Alberta. Considerable emphasis was placed on the beef and dairy sections of the livestock industry.

Christina Knuetter

Ms. Knuetter has been appointed dairy farm technician for the Edmonton area. She grew up on a small dairy farm near Spruce Grove, and, after having completed high school, she attended Concordia College in Edmonton for two years. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1979 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in animal science.

Ms. Knuetter spent the summer of 1978 working at the Alberta Swine Breeding Centre in Leduc. After graduation she worked for Western Breeders Service Ltd., and later became laboratory manager of Universal Semen Service in Cardston. She spent last winter

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Dairy Appointments (cont'd)

training as a dairy herd improvement technician in the Edmonton area where she was employed until her present appointment.

Linda Hamilton

Ms. Hamilton has been appointed dairy farm technician at the Barrhead office where she will be working with dairy specialist Jim Eisen. She will be responsible for dairy farm inspections north of Edmonton.

Ms. Hamilton was raised on a dairy and certified seed farm near Belleville, Ontario, where she was a member of 4-H, a dairy princess and a youth exchange participant with Saskatchewan. To increase her knowledge of agriculture she toured farms in Ontario, Quebec and the northern United States. She graduated with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1981 from the University of Guelph.

After taking a summer course in beekeeping from the Kemptville College of Agriculture in Ontario, she worked for a beekeeper in the Peace River district in northern Alberta. She then moved to Calgary where she was at the time of her present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TELEVISION SPECIAL FOR AGRICULTURE WEEK

Computers will play an important role in farming in the future. Alberta Agriculture's television special "Bridging the Gap" examines the computer's role in agricultural production and looks at other exciting developments that will affect the province's agricultural and food industries. It will be aired during Agriculture Week – February 22-26.

In the 1980's satellites will play an important role in crop production, wheat may be able to produce its own nitrogen and computers will be in common use in the farm home.

These fascinating technological advances will be the major components of a television special, "Bridging the Gap", which will be aired during Agriculture Week – February 22 to 26. Produced by Bob Keates of Alberta Agriculture's communications division, "Bridging the Gap" will unveil some of the on-going research projects that could have a long-lasting effect on food production in Canada and that could benefit both the producer and the consumer.

"Bridging the Gap" will examine the Landstat satellite which orbits the earth 14 times a day at an altitude of 800 kilometres and transmits information to a gound station at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Here it is processed into image form and some of it is used to predict crop yields and diseases and to pinpoint problem soils.

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Television Special For Agriculture Week (cont'd)

"Bridging the Gap" will also examine research that is being carried out on nitrogen fixing in wheat at the federal research station in Lethbridge — a leading world authority in this field. According to Dr. Robert Rennie of the station, the impact on the agricultural and food industries will be enormous if the research is successful.

And "Bridging the Gap" will take a look at the effect that computers will have on farming in the 1980's. Many have found their way into farm homes in the last few years, and they will become even much more versatile with the arrival of Telidon.

"Bridging the Gap" will be aired on the following stations:-

CBXT Edmonton	February 22	07:00 p.m.
CFAC Lethbridge	February 22	10:30 p.m.
CKRD Red Deer	February 22	07:30 p.m.
CHAT Medicine Hat	February 22	07:30 p.m.
CKSA Lloydminster	February 25	07:00 p.m.
CBRT Calgary	February 26	07:00 p.m.

For more information, contact
Doug Pettit – Telephone:427-2127

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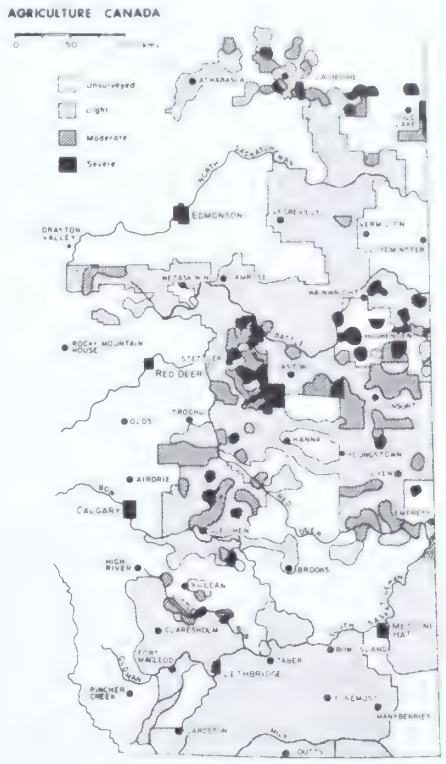
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 ALBERTA GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

Many crop districts in Alberta face the risk of grasshopper damage this year.

Surveys carried out by personnel at the federal research station at Lethbridge in cooperation with fieldmen in southern Alberta show that areas which had moderate to severe infestations last year face the greatest risk this year, and that areas which had only light infestations in 1981 could have problems this year.



County and municipal fieldmen, who conduct the grasshopper surveys each year, report an increase in grasshopper numbers and in the size of the infested area in 1981. In fact, local grasshopper outbreaks had to be controlled with an insecticide as far north as Lac la Biche. Dr. J.M. Hardman, entomologist at the Lethbridge research station, says that heavy egg-laying last fall could mean more severe infestations this year if the spring starts off cool and wet and then becomes warm and dry. Conversely, if the weather in the spring alternates between warm and cold spells, and if moisture is plentiful, the risk of grasshopper damage will be greatly reduced.

Last year severe grasshopper infestations (more than five grasshoppers per square metre in fields or more than 20 per square metre on roadsides) covered 3,312 square kilometres and occurred as isolated pockets near Lac la Biche and Cold Lake in northern Alberta. In eastern Alberta they occurred near Wainwright, Hughenden, Youngstown and Oyen, and in

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1982 Alberta Grasshopper Forecast (cont'd)

central regions they occurred near Castor, Stettler, Trochu and Gleichen. In the south they occurred near Vulcan.

Pockets of moderate infestations (three to five grasshoppers per square metre in fields or 10 to 20 per square metre along roadsides) covered 10,570 square kilometres in 1981. They were found near Athabasca, Lac la Biche, Cold Lake, Vermilion and Drayton Valley in the north; near Hughenden, Consort, Oyen and Empress in the east; near Stettler, Castor, Trochu, Airdrie and Gleichen in central regions; and near Vulcan in the south. According to Dr. Hardman, even a moderate infestation can cause an unacceptable level of crop damage if plants are stressed by lack of moisture during warm, dry weather.

He advises farmers in areas that are predicted to have grasshopper infestations this year to start checking for grasshoppers along roadsides and along the edges of their fields about the middle of May. If counts reveal more than 15 young grasshoppers per square metre in these areas, spraying may very well be necessary. Dr. Hardman points out that it is easier to control grasshoppers at this stage than it is when they are larger and more mobile.

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MORE ALBERTA FIRMS TO RECEIVE NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE

Three Alberta firms will receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement. They are York Farms of Lethbridge, Can-Grow Farm Supplies Ltd of Fort Saskatchewan and Westlock Foods Ltd of Westlock.

York Farms, a division of Canada Packers Inc. will receive $95,891 to modernize and expand its potato processing plant in Lethbridge. The firm, which has been in business since 1962, processes frozen peas as well as French fried potatoes. The new equipment is estimated to cost $880,000 and is expected to increase production by more than 13 per cent over the next three years.

Can-Grow Farm Supplies Ltd will receive $20,745 to help it build a fertilizer blending plant at Lamont. The new plant, which will be similar to the one in Fort Saskatchewan, is estimated to cost $172,000 and is expected to create four new jobs.

Westlock Foods Ltd will receive $3,218 to help it to modernize and expand its bakery and meat processing plant which are part of an IGA store in Westlock. The estimated cost of the project is $16,000.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Development and Alberta Agriculture.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEASING CROPLAND IN ALBERTA

Did you know that about a third of all the agricultural land in Alberta is leased, and that 53 per cent of the leasing arrangements are on a crop share basis? The remainder are cash lease arrangements.

In addition to the common type of cash lease, there is a flexible cash lease. In this lease, the tenant assumes the yield risk, but the price risk is shared with the owner of the land. This means that the rent could fluctuate up or down, depending up on the price of the crop.

According to Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, the conditions of a lease are usually limited by such traditional influences as the "going rate". He points out, however, that although this approach may seem to be satisfactory to the landowner and the tenant, unnecessary problems can arise if one of the parties does not understand the underlying economic implications.

Under most leases the tenant provides such resources as machinery, labor, management and the main operating expenses, while the owner of the land provides the land, associated improvements, occasional management inputs and, at times, some operating expenses. When the above resources are combined, mutual benefits occur, providing the type and terms of the lease agreement meet the requirements of both parties.

To help farmers to better understand leasing arrangements, Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds has prepared a publication entitled "Leasing Cropland In Alberta". It discusses such things as calculating rent, types of leasing arrangements, financial management considerations and taxes and legal and business considerations.

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Leasing Cropland In Alberta (cont'd)

For example, the publication explains the three different approaches that can be taken when calculating rent. One is the owner's cost approach which determines the minimum amount of rent that is required to meet the expenses that the landowner will incur each year. The second is the tenant's income approach which determines the maximum cash rent that can be paid. It is based on expected yields, prices and production costs, and includes an allowance for the tenant's labor and management. The third is the contributions approach in which the expenses and returns are shared in the same proportion as they experienced.

In essence, the publication provides a comprehensive discussion of land leasing with all its ramifications as well as information on leases and income tax and the law and surface rights. It also contains a worksheet for calculating the various rental approaches.

"Leasing Cropland in Alberta" (Agdex 812-5) can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM OPO or the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT SITUATION

World wheat prices are expected to decline seasonally by $10 to $20 per tonne between now and about the beginning of June 1982.

Les Lyster, Alberta Agriculture's grain marketing economist, attributes the decline that has occurred in world wheat prices since the middle of November to disappointing economic news, the Polish situation, weak feed grain and oilseed markets and the generally favorable winter wheat crop development in the northern hemisphere.

The world wheat acreage in the 1982-83 crop year is expected to be only slightly lower than it was in 1981, according to Mr. Lyster, who says the United States has the potential of producing a near record crop this year. American winter wheat plantings are estimated at a record 66.25 million acres, which is up by half a per cent from the previous year's level. Although growing conditions have been favorable, recent cold temperatures in the United States could cause above normal winter kill. However, the extent of such damage, if there is any, will not be known until the crop breaks dormancy.

Mr. Lyster says American spring wheat and durum acreages could be down slightly from 1981 levels as a result of the voluntary 15 per cent acreage set-aside program that has been announced. Final details of the program, growing conditions and the spring price outlook will determine farmer participation, but at the present time, it appears that participation will be relatively low.

Soviet winter wheat plantings are estimated to be up. "At this point" says Mr. Lyster, "we must assume a sharp recovery in the size of the 1982 Soviet crop compared with the poor crops of the last three years."

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Wheat Situation (cont'd)

Growing conditions in the other major wheat producing counties like China, India and the European Common Market generally appear to be adequate for this time of year. Hence, providing there are no weather problems, the 1982-83 world wheat crop could surpass this year's level. However, because of the decrease in wheat stocks in the major importing countries, particularly the U.S.S.R., world wheat trade is expected to remain large, but it may not increase from its current level.

Canadian Situation

According to Mr. Lyster, no increase in the Canadian Wheat Board's initial payments are anticipated during the remainder of the current crop year, and initial payments for the 1982-83 crop year will probably be set at, or slightly below, present levels.

Although Canadian Wheat Board quotas for this crop year are not expected to reach the high levels recorded in the 1980-81 , they should be sufficiently large to allow most farmers to deliver their current crop before the end of the present crop year, Mr. Lyster says.

Assuming a total Canadian wheat acreage of around 29.5 million acres and average yields, this year's wheat crop will be about 22.5 million tonnes. When combined with a carryover of 10 million tonnes, it would result in total Canadian supplies for the 1982-83 crop year of 32.5 million tonnes, which would be similar to those of the 1981-82 crop year.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after February 28, 1982 is requested to consult Mr. Les Lyster.

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 CHICKEN OUTLOOK

Prices paid to Alberta broiler growers are expected to increase only slightly during the next six months because feed grain prices are expected to remain low.

Terry Appleby, a market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, expects prices to advance more quickly in the last half of the year as other costs rise. He believes that prices for live No.1 broilers will be about 55¢ per pound during this period, which would be about 7 per cent higher than they were in January 1982.

He also expects chicken production in Alberta to grow by 10 per cent this year to 82 million pounds. He points out that current stock levels are not high compared with other years even though they are 7.6 per cent higher than they were in January 1981.

Chicken meat consumption is expected to continue to grow at its current rate as a result of the increase in the province's population and an increase in per capita consumption. Mr. Appleby says if the economic climate improves, consumption in Alberta could even exceed its current rate of growth.

Domestic chicken production in Canada as a whole exceeded the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency's (CCMA) production quota for 1981 of 819 million pounds by 16 million pounds or 2 per cent. However, according to Mr. Appleby, two factors must be considered when comparing this level of overproduction to quota allotted. First, the quota allocation of

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1982 Chicken Outlook (cont'd)

819 million pounds appears to have been too low. In spite of carryover stocks on January 1, 1982 that were about 11 million pounds higher than the long-term average of 28 million pounds, the supply demand balance of chicken meat for the year suggests a more realistic allocation would have been about 825 million pounds. Second, Alberta's, production was 10 million pounds over its assigned quota and therefore contributed significantly to the national overproduction. However, since Alberta is not a member CCMA, its not bound by the national quota assigned to it.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after February 28, 1982 is requested to consult Mr. Appleby.

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S FRESH VEGETABLE SITUATION

The balance of Alberta's 1981 fresh vegetable crop will be sold at reasonably good prices over the next three months, but overall producer returns will be below 1980 levels, according to Bob Prather, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture. And he believes that rising production costs will continue to limit the profitability of commercial vegetable production in this province.

Alberta's fresh vegetable acreage is not expected to increase by much, if at all, in 1982 in view of the difficult economic conditions that prevail. These conditions, Mr. Prather says, will limit any expansion by current vegetable producers and will discourage potential newcomers. He also says that this year's Alberta prices will continue to be dictated by those in the major shipping areas in both Canada and the United States.

Producer prices for most Alberta fresh vegetables in 1981 were below the excellent returns that producers received in 1980. Rutabagas and carrots, which at certain times supply most of the province's requirements, were the exceptions. Mr. Prather believes relatively large crops and competitive prices in Manitoba, in other shipping areas in Canada and in the United States have kept prices for local produce from increasing in Alberta.

For further information contact Bob Prather, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM COMPUTER FAIR/SEMINAR

Are you confused about farm computers? If so, come to the second annual Farm Computer Fair/Seminar at Olds College in Olds on February 25 and 26.

Awareness of microcomputers has greatly increased in the last year, especially in the farming community which sees them as a potential management tools. They are perceived as being able to help managers with their financial and physical records in the case of budgeting and forward projecting as well as with other situations.

Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds says that people see the microcomputer as a "miracle machine" in its early stages, but that when they look into microcomputers as a management tool, they become confused. They ask such questions as: "Which computer should I buy?" "What software is available for my farming operation?" "Can a microcomputer do this . . . ?" "Why do I need a computer now when I never needed one before?" "What does all this computer lingo mean?"

The Farm Computer Fair/Seminar was organized by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in conjunction with Olds College to answer these kinds of questions and others that people are interested in. Mr. Andres says at this year's fair/seminar approximately 20 computer exhibitors from across Alberta will be displaying and selling computer hardware (equipment), computer software (programs) and other computer services that farmers can use. There will also be mobile radios, satellite dishes and closed circuit TV's on display. And Alberta Agriculture and a number of provincial community colleges will have display booths which will emphasize microcomputer use on the farm and outline future plans for teaching microcomputer literacy to both students and farmers. The displays will be open from 12 noon until 8 p.m. on both days.

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Farm Computer Fair/Seminar (cont'd)

Following is the program agenda for February 25. The program will start at 10:30 a.m. and continue through the evening.

"Why Buy A Computer" by Gary Fisher, Alberta Agriculture; "A VisiCalc Workshop" by Paul Gervais, Alberta Agriculture; "Ag Computing in the U.S.A." by Neil Clemmons, Editor, "Agricultural Computing", Doane Agricultural Service, U.S.A.; "Data Base Management System Workshop" by Dr. Roy Kelly, Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; "Introduction to Computers Workshop" by Brian Freeze, Lethbridge Community College and "Advanced Programming Workshop" by Echo McCarley, Alberta Agriculture.

The program on February 26, which will also start at 10:30 a.m. and will feature John Cardiff, Editor, "Ontario Milk Producer" and Peter Kroli, Alberta Wheat Pool who will discuss "Ag Computing in Eastern Canada" and "The Alberta Wheat Pool Computer System" respectively. In the afternoon an off-Farm Computer Use Panel will talk about alternatives to the microcomputer, and Darryl Heins, a Leduc dairy farmer and Bruce Christensen of E.S.P. Electronics in St. Paul will discuss "Physical Controls With Computers".

The registration fee for each day of the fair/seminar is only $2 per person in the case of adults and $1 per person in the case of students. And a microcomputer will be given away each day as a door prize!

If you have any questions about the Farm Computer Fair/Seminar, please contact Gary Fisher or Gerd Andres, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 (Telephone: 556-8421).

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED FAIRS

The 1982 weed fairs sponsored by the Canadian Agricultural Chemical Association will be held in the following locations and on the following dates.

Wetaskiwin	— Drill Hall	— February 23
Castor	— Community Hall	— February 24
Olds	— New Agri-plex	— February 25

The purpose of these annual fairs, which are held in different locations each year, is to acquaint farmers with new products and new developments in weed control. Emphasis at the fairs is on herbicides and application equipment.

In addition to product and equipment displays, each fair will feature a guest speaker.

The Wetaskiwin Fair will feature Dr. Malcolm Devine of the University of Alberta who will talk about Canada thistle control.

The Castor Fair will feature Dr. Bill McGregor of Elanco who will discuss new developments in weed control.

The Olds Fair will feature Dr. Ray Gesshe of Olds College whose subject will be weed control in forage crops.

Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of weed control, Walter Yarish, says these weed fairs have proved very valuable in the past, and have been well attended by farmers in the regions in which they have been held.

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February 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE ROP TECHNICIAN APPOINTED AND ROP PROGRESS REPORT

Alberta Agriculture's assistant supervisor of swine breeding, Art Lange, has announced the appointment of Bill Biel to the Record of Performance Program (ROP) staff, and the preliminary ROP results for 1981.

Mr. Biel has been appointed regional swine technician for central Alberta. He joins Carmen Conrad who works out of the Lethbridge office; Lajos Hajdu who works out of the Swine Breeding Centre near Leduc; and Tom Williams who works on a part-time basis in the Peace River and Mayerthorpe-Barrhead areas. Mr. Biel replaces Ian Clark who has taken up sheep farming, but will help with the ROP Program on a part-time basis.

Mr. Biel will be working out of the Red Deer office and will be responsible for probing pigs in herds that are enrolled in the ROP Program in that area. He will also be encouraging the use of artificial insemination.

He has an agricultural production technician's diploma from Olds College and extensive practical experience as a result of having managed his father's 1,000 to 1,500 head hog operation from 1975 to 1981. During this period he was a regular user of semen from the Alberta Swine Breeding Centre and managed to attain a conception rate in his sows of 90 per cent.

Mr. Lange reports that 90 Alberta swine producers tested 13,870 pigs under the ROP Program in 1981 and that this involved taking backfat measurements on live animals that weighed between 75 to 105 kg. The measurements were taken on the farm by a technician who combined the data with the days from birth to 90 kg and calculated the index by using the national formula.

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Swine ROP Technician Appointed And ROP Progress Report (cont'd)

Although performance figures for 1981 are not yet available, a reduction in the average backfat measurement and a slight reduction in days to 90 kg are expected, according to Mr. Lange. He says the average backfat measurement for boars tested in Alberta was reduced to 14.6 mm from 20.3 mm between 1970 and 1980 and that the backfat measurement for gilts was reduced to 15.7 mm from 21.8 mm. During the same period days to 90 kg decreased to 171 from 178 in the case of boars and to 174 from 187 in the case of gilts.

The purpose of the ROP Program is to identify potential breeding animals that are superior in the above traits for breeding stock replacement selection within herds and for sale to commercial swine producers.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BE CAREFUL WHEN FEEDING SWEET-CLOVER

Special precautions should be taken when feeding sweet-clover hay or silage to cattle to avoid sweet-clover poisoning.

This advice comes from Dr. J. Prichard of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary laboratory at Fairview who says that problems occur with sweet-clover during the storage period. She explains that weathering causes coumarol, a normal constituent of sweet-clover, to change into dicoumarol, and that it is the dicoumarol that causes sweet-clover poisoning. It apparently interferes with an animal's normal blood clotting mechanism by competing with vitamin K.

Dr. Prichard also says that dicoumarol accumulates in an animal's system for as long as the animal is eating the sweet-clover hay or silage. She also points out that the degree of interference in blood clotting is directly related to the amount of sweet-clover that is ingested and the length of time that it is fed.

Cattle that are suffering from sweet-clover poisoning are usually quite normal in both appearance and behaviour until the problem becomes severe. At this point, a farmer may find animals that are either very weak of that have died. When examined, the dead animals will be found to have suffered extensive internal hemorrhages or to have bled to death from an accidental or surgical wound.

Dr. Prichard says all species of farm animals are susceptible to sweet-clover poisoning, but that cattle are the most susceptible. And all ages can be affected, but yearlings and calves are more susceptible than mature cows. However, cows that are on a sweet clover ration may abort their calves or give birth to stillborn calves. And those calves that are born alive may die shortly after birth from extensive hemorrhaging. Even though the cows show no evidence of a problem, they too may die during calving from extensive hemorrhaging.

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Be Careful When Feeding Sweet Clover (cont'd)

What about treatment? Dr. Prichard says that vitamin K is a good antidote against sweet-clover poisoning in cattle, but that it and other treatments should be administered under the supervision of a veterinarian. She also says that a blood transfusion from a cow that is not being fed sweet-clover is frequently required, and that the sick animal should be immediately taken off sweet-clover and put on to another type of forage.

Because sweet-clover that has had its coumarol changed by weathering to dicoumarol cannot be distinguished from sweet-clover that has not undergone this change, it is generally recommended that all sweet-clover hay and silage be considered a potential hazard.

However, as Dr. Prichard points out, sweet-clover has an important place in crop rotations, and, if a few simple precautions are taken, both sweet-clover hay and sweet-clover silage can be safely fed to cattle with very little risk of poisoning.

Following are the precautions she suggests:-

- Feed sweet-clover hay or silage for only two weeks at a time. Then feed another type of forage for the next two weeks, and then go back to the sweet-clover again. This two-weeks-on and two-weeks-off program can be safely used throughout the feeding period.
- Discontinuing feeding any sweet-clover at least three weeks before calving time and before such surgical procedures as castration, dehorning, etc.
- Discard all badly spoiled sweet-clover forage.
- Feed a sweet-clover variety that has a low coumarin content if possible.

Dr. Prichard reports that federal scientists are attempting to develop a variety of sweet-clover that has a low coumarin content. In fact, they have already developed a white sweet-clover variety called Polara which has a low coumarin content, but, unfortunately, its yield is 10 to 25 per cent lower than that of commonly used varieties. The most recent low

Be Careful When Feeding Sweet Clover (cont'd)

coumarin variety that has been registered is called Norgold. It is a yellow sweet-clover, and like other yellow-flowered varieties, it is shorter, finer-stemmed and has finer leaves than the white-flowered varieties. However, it contains a considerably lower level of coumarin than other varieties, and initial data indicate that it may yield about 16 per cent high than Polara.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN CATTLE PRICE AND SUPPLY PROSPECTS

Alberta A1 and A2 steer prices are likely to average slightly below $70 per hundredweight during the first quarter of this year, but to move above this level towards the end of the quarter.

David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, expects fed cattle prices to strengthen further during the second quarter, and perhaps towards the end of the second quarter to even reach the high $70 range, which was the year-earlier level. However, he thinks that replacement cattle prices may be slow to follow fed cattle price trends even though feed and interest costs are below what they were a year ago. He says there will probably have to be three or four months of positive feeding margins before feeder confidence is fully restored.

Although the number of yearlings that will form the basis of beef supplies during the first half of this year is somewhat larger than a year earlier, the increase in steer slaughter, particularly during the last quarter of 1981, will have made inroads into the volume of yearlings that are available for feeding and marketing before the middle of 1982. The Canadian beef cow herd, including breeding heifers, was estimated by Statistics Canada to be 4.6 million head on July 1. 1981, which was one per cent less than the previous year. "This suggests" says Mr. Walker, "a reduction in slaughter supplies during the second half of this year."

The Alberta cattle-on-feed survey indicates that fed steer marketings during the first quarter of this year will be on a par with those of the first quarter of 1981, but that fed heifer marketings will be heavier, particularly during the first half of the quarter.

"It appears on the basis of the Canadian supply picture", Mr. Walker says, "that we will continue to be close to, if not on, an import basis with the United States, but the wide price difference between Alberta and Eastern Canadian markets may narrow somewhat".

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1982.

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February 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN HOG PRICE AND SUPPLY PROSPECTS

Alberta hog prices are expected to be above $70 per hundredweight during the latter part of the first quarter of this year.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, David Walker, believes that after the seasonal decline in April, prices could recover to the $80 level. He bases this opinion on American hog production being more than 5 per cent below the year-earlier level during the second quarter of this year; some improvement in the American economy; and Canadian production being down marginally from the same period in 1981.

The October 1981 Agriculture Canada quarterly hog marketing forecast, the most recent indicator available, projects Canadian hog marketings of 2, 4 and 2 per cent respectively below year-earlier levels for the final quarter of 1981, the first quarter of 1982 and the May to September period of this year. In actual fact, Canadian marketings were only one per cent below the year-earlier level during the fourth quarter of 1981 and in the early part of January, 1982, they were running below the year-ago level by only a somewhat wider margin.

In view of the above situation and the relatively adverse margins being faced by Canadian hog producers that are not covered by a provincial stabilization program, it is reasonable to expect, Mr. Walker says, that hog marketings during the first half of 1982 will be somewhat below the year-earlier level. Since about 15 per cent of Canada's pork production is exported either in live or product form, this lower supply level will still tend to leave Canada's pork markets on an export basis. This means that American market trends should be fairly directly reflected in Canadian markets.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1982.

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February 15, 1982

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CANADIAN BARLEY SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Non-board barley elevator prices are expected to remain near their current level of approximately $105 per tonne until the spring when they could rise slightly. However, they are likely to be under pressure again in the fall unless this year's crop suffers from unfavorable weather conditions.

According to Les Lyster of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, non-board barley is receiving some support from the Canadian Wheat Board's (CWB) initial payment and limited selling by farmers, but it is overpriced in relation to corn in Eastern markets. He says non-board prices will be affected between now and next summer by the performance of the American corn market, the pace of Canadian barley exports and the timing of CWB quotas.

Last year's Canadian barley acreage was the largest since 1971 and yields also reached a record. The result was the biggest barley crop ever produced in Canada. And record crops were recorded for both rye and corn.

Mr. Lyster reports that Alberta also produced a record barley crop of 6.6 million tonnes, which was 11 per cent above the 1980 level. The barley acreage was also the largest ever, but the average yield of 48.5 bushels per acre was 2.2 bushels per acre below the 1980 average yield.

With Canadian barley carryover stocks on July 31, 1981 of 3 million tonnes, barley supplies for the 1981-82 crop year are estimated to be a record 16.4 million tonnes or 3.1 million tonnes above those of 1980-81.

Mr. Lyster says that domestic barley usage could be down marginally in the present crop year compared with the previous crop year, mainly because of lower shipments

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Canadian Barley Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

of Western barley to the Eastern market. However, barley usage in Western Canada should be slightly above the year-ago level because of a higher number of cattle on feed. Also, this winter's colder weather compared with that of last winter will mean the use of more feed.

Although barley exports for the first five months of the current crop year were more than double those of the same period a year earlier, this level of exports is not expected to be maintained during the last half of the crop year. Mr. Lyster thinks 1981-82 barley exports, including products, will be around 5.3 million tonnes compared with only 3.6 million tonnes exported in 1980-81. However, since an export level of 6.5 to 7 million tonnes would be required to prevent a buildup of barley carryover stocks, a somewhat burdensome carryover of around 4.5 million tonnes on July 31, 1982 is expected compared with 3 million tonnes in July of 1981.

Mr. Lyster thinks that Prairie farmers will cut back their barley acreage this year by 5 per cent or more from that of last year. If this is the case, and if yields are average, the 1982 barley crop will be in the range of 12 to 12.5 million tonnes. When combined with a carryover of 4.5 million tonnes, it will result in total barley supplies in the 1982-83 crop year at least as large as those of this year.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1982.

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February 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN RAPESEED/CANOLA SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Country elevator prices for canola/rapeseed are expected to remain in the $275 to $295 range until the spring when they are expected to strengthen marginally into the summer, but the increase is unlikely to cover carrying charges.

Alberta Agriculture's grain market analyst, Les Lyster, points out that although the Canadian rapeseed/canola supply-demand situation is extremely tight for the present crop year, world oilseed supplies are adequate to meet expected demand. Since Canadian production accounts for only about one per cent of the world oilseed production, the tight supply situation here has little impact on world oilseed prices.

Canadian carryover stocks of rapeseed/canola on July 31, 1982 will be only about 450,000 tonnes or 65 per cent below the previous year's level. This will be the lowest that stocks have been since 1977-78, and farm stocks are expected to be virtually nil by the end of the present crop year.

Because Canadian carryover stocks will be minimal, supplies in the 1982/83 crop year will be mainly decided by the size of this year's crop. Mr. Lyster expects Canada's rapeseed/canola acreage to increase by 20 to 25 per cent this year, which would mean an acreage of from 4.3 to 4.5 million acres. If yields are average, the 1982 crop will be about 2.15 million tonnes and supplies for the 1982-83 crop year will be around 2.6 million tonnes, which would not be sufficient to meet export and crushing requirements. A 50 per cent increase in this year's acreage and normal yields would be required for 1982-83 supplies to match those of the current crop year.

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Canadian Rapeseed/Canola Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

In view of the prospect of extremely tight supplies in the 1982-83 crop year, export and crusher quotas during that period are expected to open faster than has been the case in the present crop year and they are expected to be large. In fact, quotas are expected to increase substantially before the end of the present crop year.

The above article is based on information that was available at the end of January, 1982.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 HONEY CROP

Alberta honey producer prices thus far in the 1981-82 crop year are well above those of the last crop year.

Bob Prather, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Alberta prices have averaged more than $1.35 per kg for bulk honey and $2 per kg for container honey. However, container honey sales represent only 10 to 15 per cent of total producer sales in any given year.

Alberta's 1981 honey crop, based on 170,000 producing colonies and an average yield of 62 kg per colony, is now estimated at a record 10,478 tonnes. However, production varied considerably from one region to another. After a slow start, production in the south of the province increased by about 45 per cent compared with 1980. The central region recorded a 36 per cent increase compared with 1980 as a result of 1,000 additional colonies and an above average yield. The northern region had 4,000 additional colonies and an average yield, which gave it a 10 per cent increase in production. However, the situation was different in the Peace River region which suffered from drought and a considerable decrease in forage for bees. According to Mr. Prather, the south Peace was particularly hard hit, with the result that the overall yield in the Peace River region averaged only about 59 kg per colony, well below the 75 to 80 kg recorded in the two previous years. However, poor yields were offset to some degree by 4,000 additional colonies.

Mr. Prather says that unless the domestic movement of honey and/or exports in the first six months of this year exceeds that of a year ago, the Canadian honey industry may be forced to carry over a large quantity of honey into the 1982-83 marketing season. However,

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1981 Honey Crop (cont'd)

as has been demonstrated in the past, such a situation will not necessarily limit producer price prospects, but, if it is combined with further increases in Canadian production, it could do this.

Based on sales to date and perceived developments, Mr. Prather says Canadian producer returns for their 1981 crop are expected to average around $1.66 per kg and from $1.40 to $1.45 per kg for Western Canadian bulk honey. He points out that these levels reflect record producer returns, but that it must be remembered that significant cost increases were incurred in 1981.

For further information contact Bob Prather, Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CORN PRODUCTION

The production of grain corn in Alberta has been growing slowly but steadily over the past three years.

Blair Roth, Alberta Agriculture's special crops specialist in Lethbridge, reports that approximately 8,000 acres of grain corn were grown in southern Alberta last year, and that every year the newer growers are becoming more proficient in the use of the latest technology that is available for achieving high yields. He explains that corn is grown in those areas of the province which have 2,100 heat units or more, and that the heat units closely follow the soil groupings. Roughly speaking, the 2,100 heat unit zone follows the dark brown soil zone, and the heat units increase as one moves east and south from this area.

According to Mr. Roth, Alberta's grain corn production is most heavily concentrated in the Bow Island-Burdett area in the south of the province. However, it has been spreading to other heat unit areas, with the result that grain corn is now being grown in the Lethbridge, Scandia, Vauxhall, Taber and Medicine Hat regions.

Mr. Roth reports that last year's average corn yield was about 105 bushels per acre and that total production was approximately 21,000 tonnes. However, the province's total annual consumption (feed, distilling and snack foods) is somewhere between 125,000 and 203,600 tonnes.

Mr. Roth points out that with a total production of only about 21,000 tonnes, there is plenty of room for growth in Alberta's corn industry. He says that since the balance of the corn used in Alberta comes from Manitoba and the United States, Alberta growers are

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Alberta Corn Production (cont'd)

in a competitively advantageous position. However, he also says that Alberta growers need the higher price per bushel because their cost of producing corn under irrigation is substantially higher than the cost of producing it in the rainfed areas of Manitoba, North Dakota, etc.

The future for Alberta corn production looks optimistic, according to Mr. Roth. There is still lots of room for expansion in the market place; the amount of harvesting and drying equipment is increasing as the corn acreage increases, which makes custom harvesting and drying feasible for new and smaller growers; and the use of early, high-yielding hybrids such as Pioneer 3995 and NK PX9040 is increasing all the time.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREIGHT RATE INCREASES

Railway freight rates will increase on grain and grain products, and field crop seeds and probably on livestock on April 1, 1982.

Rates for the transportation of grain and grain products that are being moved to domestic markets in Eastern and Western Canada will increase by 16 per cent on April 1.

Rates for the transportation of field crop seeds will also increase by 16 per cent on April 1.

Rates for the transportation of livestock are expected to increase by 17 per cent on April 1.

Rates for the transportation of agricultural implements increased on February 15 by 15 per cent.

Rates for the transportation of meat to Eastern Canada increased on January 1, 1982 by 12 per cent. These rates have increased by about 143 per cent since the rate freeze on all agricultural commodities was lifted in December 1974.

Rates on grain shipped to British Columbia from Alberta increased on January 1, 1982 by 14 per cent to the interior of B.C.; by 16 per cent to Vancouver and the lower Fraser Valley; and by 47¢ per hundredweight arbitrary over the Vancouver rate.

Truck freight rates on most commodities transported within and between provinces increased on January 2, 1982 by 9.8 to 10.5 per cent.

St. Lawrence Seaway tolls will increase by an average of 18 per cent in 1982 and by 10 per cent in 1983.

Further information can be obtained from G. Nabi Chaudhary, Production Economics Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5395).

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February 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGISTRATION FORMS FOR MARKETING CONFERENCE AVAILABLE

Registration forms for Alberta Agriculture's Grains and Oilseeds Market Outlook Conference are now available from district agriculturists.

The conference, called Accent '82, is scheduled to take place in the Calgary Convention Centre on March 17 and 18, and its purpose is to give farmers information that will help them plan production and marketing strategies over the coming year.

Accent '82's agenda will include presentations on the Canadian and international outlooks for wheat, feed grains and oilseeds, including flaxseed. The speakers will also discuss the Canadian economy and world weather conditions and crops.

Participants may choose from three registration plans: $60 for the conference, meals and proceedings; $40 for the conference and proceedings; or $15 for proceedings only. Registration for the $60 option must reach Alberta Agriculture by March 9.

Accent '82 will begin with registration at 11:00 a.m. on March 17, which will be followed by a complimentary luncheon at 11:30 a.m. The conference is scheduled to adjourn at 2 p.m. on March 18.

In addition to registration forms, a copy of the Accent '82's program can be obtained from district offices or from the Market Analysis Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5383).

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February 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN DAIRY SITUATION

The Canadian dairy industry is currently facing a static situation as a result of increased cheese consumption being offset by reduced butter consumption.

However, Terry Appleby of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch says a more pessimistic situation could develop if consumers shift from the purchase of high priced dairy products to lower priced substitutes in response to a lower rate of real disposable income, increased unemployment and general economic uncertainty. In fact, he believes that it is probably these factors, plus the increased promotion of margarine in 1981, that are responsible for the reversal in the generally optimistic outlook for butter consumption. "If the decrease in butter consumption more than offsets the need for additional butterfat, there could be some contraction in the industry," he says.

Mr. Appleby reports that milk production in Alberta has increased more quickly than was expected as a result of such things as the winter incentive subsidy program during 1980-81, which encouraged herd expansion and the retention of marginal producing cows; a moderation in feed grain prices; and low cull cow prices.

The Dairy Herd Improvement statistics, which cover most of the fluid milk produced in the province, indicate that there has been a buildup in cow numbers per herd during the past eight months of from 10 to 12 per cent. A declining level of production per cow and a decrease in the proportion of heifers relative to total calving reinforce this conclusion.

Mr. Appleby does not expect the level of milk production in Alberta to moderate in the short term in view of the low returns to grain, and the fact that hog and beef production

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Canadian Dairy Situation (cont'd)

will not encourage any shifting from dairying to these enterprises. Also, since off-farm employment opportunities are limited because of the current economic climate, growth in milk production during the remaining seven months of the dairy year will probably continue at least at its present level.

Mr. Appleby says that Alberta is expected to have used 99 per cent of its market share quota (MSQ) by the end of the current dairy year. Because interprovincial quota adjustments are scheduled to take place in July, and there will be intense competition for available MSQ as a result of a static global market, Alberta's full utilization appears to be opportune.

Because of the changing nature of factors affecting this outlook, anyone who wishes to make published reference to its contents, in whole or in part, after February 28, 1982 is requested to consult Mr. Appleby.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VAUXHALL ALFALFA PLANT RECEIVES ASSISTANCE TO EXPAND

An alfalfa pelleting plant, operated in Vauxhall by the Alberta Dehydrating Company Ltd., will receive $113,188 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement to assist in the modernization and expansion of its facilities.

The plant has been operating in Vauxhall since 1958 and has undergone two previous modernization and expansion programs since it was acquired by its present owner, Ottawa Valley Grain Products Ltd of Renfrew, Ontario in 1966.

The present modernization and expansion program is expected to cost more than half a million dollars and to increase the plant's equivalent of 14 full-time workers to 17.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture. Since the program was established in 1975, processors in Alberta have received 270 offers of assistance, totalling more than $15 million. And a new three-year, $28 million agreement was signed by the two governments in August, 1981.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDING ERGOT-CONTAMINATED GRAIN

Did you know that last year's grain crop contained a much higher level of ergot contamination than normal, and that you should be careful when feeding it to livestock?

Ron Weisenburger, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's cattle and sheep branch, reports that the problem appears to be most prevalent in the western half of the Lethbridge region and in the southwestern part of the Airdrie region. However, there have also been reports of ergot contamination in some grain that was grown in the western part of the Airdrie region and in the western part of the Red Deer region.

Mr. Weisenburger says that even livestock producers located outside the areas described above should be on the lookout for ergot because all the areas of the province where it is present may not have been defined.

Another thing that livestock producers should be aware of is that both wheat and barley were contaminated with ergot last year. Usually the problem is confined to rye and triticale.

What are the symptoms of ergot poisoning in livestock? They include a reduction in pregnancy rates, occasional abortions, diarrhea, excessive salivation, difficulty in breathing, ulcers, internal bleeding, and gangrene. Gangrene is the typical symptom found in Alberta.

It is caused by a reduced supply of blood to the extremities where the body circulation is weakest. Typical symptoms in cattle are an increase in the body temperature, pulse and respiratory rates; a decrease in milk production; nervousness; ataxia; an abnormal gait; a reduction in the rate of gain in cattle on feed; digestive disturbances; lameness; swelling of the hindlegs; and the loss of such extremeties as tails, ears and hooves.

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Feeding Ergot-Contaminated Grain (cont'd)

Typical symptoms in pigs include growth retardation and agalactia. The latter is the most serious. It has been found, for example, that sows fed 0.1, 0.5 and one per cent of ergot during the latter third of their gestation period did not develop an udder in spite of being in good condition at farrowing time and that they did not lactate. In this case the gestation period was shortened by about five days and all the baby pigs died shortly after birth. It has also been found that some sows will start to lactate when taken off ergot contaminated feed.

Typical symptoms of ergot poisoning in sheep include an increase in body temperature; nausea; salivation, diarrhea, loss of appetite; lameness followed by the loss of extremities and occasionally abortion and a decrease in milk production.

According to Mr. Weisenburger, the amount of contaminated grain that can be tolerated by livestock depends upon the amount and types of toxins in the ergot bodies and upon the age and type of livestock being fed. He says, as a general rule, older animals are more resistant to ergot poisoning than young ones, and that feeder pigs and broiler chickens are the most resistant species. Feeder cattle, pregnant beef cows and sheep are the next most resistant. Dairy cows are reasonably resistant, but since they eat less when fed ergot contaminated grain, their milk production will drop. Bred sows and gilts have the least resistance to ergot poisoning and for this reason they should not be fed any grain that contains a noticeable amount of ergot.

Fortunately, ergot is easy to recognize in grain. The ergot bodies are black or purplish in color and quite often resemble kernels of grain. The most common way of determining the percentage of ergot in grain is to separate the ergot bodies and the grain in a randomly taken sample of grain and then to calculate the percentage of ergot on a weight basis.

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Feeding Ergot-Contaminated Grain (cont'd)

Unfortunately, this method does not provide any information on the alkaloid content of the ergot or on the types of alkaloids present. And the problem becomes even more complicated when one is dealing with prepared feeds where the grain has been ground, pelleted or processed. Hence, it is important to be on the lookout for signs of ergot poisoning if there is any chance of ergot being present in livestock feed. Since to date most of the research on ergot contaminated grain has been done on the basis of the amount of ergot present in a sample, current recommendations are based on the weight percentage of ergot in the sample.

Mr. Weisenburger says the long established upper safe level of ergot is 0.1 per cent by weight (approximately one ergot body per 1,000 grain kernels). Anyone whose grain contains a higher level than this should dilute it with clean grain or feed it to his most resistant type of livestock. However, if signs of gangrene appear, its use should be immediately discontinued. Even if ergot levels that are higher than 0.1 per cent do not cause gangrene, they can be expected to cause measurable production losses, Mr. Weisenburger says.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOOSING AN ALFALFA VARIETY

Which alfalfa variety should I grow? With over 20 different varieties to choose from in Alberta such a choice can be difficult, and a poor choice is sometimes made because of lack of information, prices or availability of seed, and occasionally, even because of tradition!

According to Ken Lopetinsky, forage crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture, there is some conflict among alfalfa forage growers between choosing a variety for maximum longevity and for short-term maximum production. He says that researchers are progressing towards the development of a variety that has both these characteristics, but that at the present time there is still a substantial difference in forage yield and regrowth ability among the varieties as well as in winter hardiness and longevity. He also points out that in the irrigated area of the province, varietal resistance to such diseases as bacterial wilt and to such pests as stem nematodes should also be considered. However, concern about verticillium wilt in southern Alberta is apparently encouraging the development of an alfalfa variety that will have resistance to both bacterial and verticillium wilt.

Following is a very brief list of varieties that you may wish to consider before purchasing your alfalfa seed this spring. It includes Grimm and Angus which are not listed in the publication "1982 Recommended Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta" (Agdex 120/32).

. The Flemish varieties of alfalfa — Thor, Anchor and Angus — are recommended when maximum production is a priority. However varieties such as Algonquin and Chimo, which had rapid regrowth stock used in their breeding, are also high yielders and more winter hardy than the Flemish varieties.

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Choosing An Alfalfa Variety (cont'd)

. A new alfalfa variety, Peace, is strongly recommended when longevity is a priority, but, unfortunately, seed supplies are limited this year. However, the older variety, Grimm, is still considered to be the standard variety for longevity, and seed obtained from an original Grimm field could be a good buy. Limited of supplies of Alberta-grown Grimm may be available next year.

. The creeping-rooted alfalfa varieties are recommended when drought tolerance is desired. Among these are Roamer, Drylander, Kane and Rangelander, but Rambler is the most commonly used.

. The selection of a suitable alfalfa variety is more difficult when a combination of longevity and regrowth ability is desired. Beaver has been, and still is, the standard variety for north and north-central Alberta where winter injury occurs. However, Peace is expected to gradually replace Beaver as seed becomes available because it yields as well or better than Beaver in the Peace River Region and it has much better winter hardiness than Beaver.

Mr. Lopetinsky says Algonquin is another alfalfa variety that has good regrowth ability. It also has better winter hardiness than most commonly used alfalfa varieties. In fact, Algonquin has consistently remained one of the top forage yielders at various Agriculture Canada research stations in Alberta as well as in the Pembina and Lakeland forage associations' demonstration plots. Mr. Lopetinsky thinks it should be seriously considered by alfalfa forage growers. And he says seed supplies are good and prices are reasonable.

Mr. Lopetinsky stresses that there is no one best variety of alfalfa to grow, but that there are certainly some precautions that you should take before buying your seed. He summarizes them as follows.

. Seek out information about a variety your are considering before you buy it.

. Buy a named variety whenever one is available and stay away from blends and

Choosing An Alfalfa Variety (cont'd)

common (unnamed) seed. Canada No.1 Seed (common seed) is recommended only if you know the field or area where the seed was grown and you know that the original seed used meets your criteria.

. Remember that Algonquin and Beaver are the most widely available and adapted alfalfa varieties at the present time. Growers who are interested in a high yield potential are becoming increasingly interested in the Flemish alfalfa varieties, while those who are interested in longevity are becoming increasingly interested in Peace.

. Ask for the seed certificate for the seed lot you are planning to buy to ensure that its quality meets your expectations. High quality pedigreed seed is always recommended.

. Stick to your present variety if it is meeting your expectations. But you would be wise to try a newer variety or one of the varieties listed above on a portion of your land for comparison.

. Manage your alfalfa properly. This means proper seed inoculation and seeding, proper fertility management, proper weed control and cutting the crop at the proper time. Remember, the benefit from good management is often greater than the benefit from changing varieties.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ON FARM LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Did you know that it is illegal in Alberta to sell meat from livestock that have been slaughtered on the farm?

According to the head of Alberta Agriculture's meat hygiene branch, Dr. G.W. Summers, the provincial Meat Inspection Act allows a farmer to slaughter his own animals at home for his own use, but it forbids the sale of uninspected meat and meat products. The penalty for selling uninspected meat or meat products is a maximum of $500 for the first offence and a maximum of $2,000 and/or six months in jail for subsequent offences.

Dr. Summers says in times of depressed livestock markets, like those that we are presently experiencing, farmers often attempt to gain a little higher return from their livestock by slaughtering them at home and selling the meat directly to the consumer. He points out that farmers who want to do their own marketing can do so by arranging with their local abattoir to do the slaughtering for them. They can then either have the meat processed and packaged for sale at the abattoir, or at any other meat outlet of their choice, or they can process and package it themselves.

Dr. Summers says that the meat hygiene branch, which is responsible for inspections, will do everything possible to expedite the handling of farmer owned meat carcasses so that there will be a minimum of inconvenience and delay in returning them to their owners.

A list of abattoirs that routinely slaughter animals for farmers can be obtained from the regional supervisors of meat hygiene at the following locations.

Lethbridge	—	Mel Willis	—	Telephone: 329-5179
Calgary	—	Owen Munchrath	—	948-6868
Stettler	—	Barry Stevens	—	742-4481
Vermilion	—	Ken Pratt	—	853-2811
Edmonton	—	Jim Phair	—	436-9341
Grande Prairie	—	Tony Taylor	—	539-2121

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February 22, 1982

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BARLEY PRODUCTION SEMINARS FOR MORINVILLE AND BOYLE

A barley production seminar will be given in two parts at both Morinville and Boyle in early March.

The first half will be given at the Morinville Frontiersman Hotel on March 2 and the second half will be given at the same place on March 9. The first half of the seminar will be given at the Boyle Community Centre on March 3 and the second half will be given at the same place on March 10.

The first half of the seminar will cover barley varieties, production contracts, cultural practices and malting barley, while the second half will cover disease, weed and insect control; grading; fertilizing and the Western Barley Growers Association.

Each half of the seminar will cost $10 at Morinville and will include lunch. There will be no charge for the seminar at Boyle and there will be no lunch.

Further information on the barley production seminar can be obtained from the district agriculturist offices at Morinville, Thorhild and Athabasca.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTHERN ALBERTA RANCHER MAKES DONATION TO 4-H

A rancher from Killam in southern Alberta, Sid Walker, has donated $20,000 to the provincial 4-H in recognition of the valuable work it has done over the years.

The $20,000 has been put into an open-ended trust fund, which means that future donations can be added to it, and the interest will be used to provide grants for scholarships and travel. The fund will be administered by a board of directors and the grants will be available to any 4-H member in the province. However, members in the Flagstaff District, which takes in Killam, will be given preference.

Mr. Walker, who is 88 and emigrated from Norfolk, England, in 1912, has been involved in 4-H activities since 1946 when he and three neighbors formed the Killam 4-H beef club. He was leader of the club for four years, and apart from a brief period during the recession of the early 1950's, it has been going ever since. Mr. Walker believes that the 4-H motto of "Learn to Do by Doing" has been, and still is, extremely important and beneficial to young people.

Doug Norman, regional 4-H specialist for east-central Alberta, says as far as he knows Mr. Walker's $20,000 donation is one of the largest ever given to 4-H in Alberta by a private citizen.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHRC REGIONAL CROP LABORATORY REPORT

The southern Alberta regional crop laboratory, located at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, and one of four such laboratories in the province, received 1,548 specimens last year.

Of this total, diseased specimens accounted for just over 72 per cent of the submissions, insects accounted for just over 20 per cent and unidentified plants accounted for just over 7.5 per cent.

Submissions from commercial growers accounted for almost 23.5 per cent of the total with the remainder of the specimens being submitted by non-commercial growers and research staff at the horticultural center.

Nearly 57 per cent of the specimens were brought in to the laboratory, and the remainder were sent in by mail.

Just over 36.5 per cent of the specimens were from some type of woody ornamental. Potatoes accounted for just over 11 per cent of the specimens; field crops, for just under 10.5 per cent; fruit, for just over 10 per cent; herbaceous ornamentals for 9.5 per cent; greenhouse specimens, for just over 8 per cent; and vegetable and miscellaneous specimens, for just over 7 per cent each. Most of the specimens submitted by commercial producers were in the field crops category.

A more detailed report on the specimens received at the laboratory can be obtained from Dr. Ronald Howard, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T05 0J0.

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ON THE "WATER FRONT" TO BE AIRED IN MARCH

Alberta Agriculture's television production "On The Water Front" will be aired across Alberta during the week of March 5 - 11.

Produced by Bob Keates, "On The Water Front" looks at the province's vast water resources, which include the headwaters of some of Canada's major river systems. Even though more than 17 billion gallons of water tumble down from the Rockies each year, only a fraction of this water is retained and used.

Since irrigation accounts for more than 80 per cent of all the water used in Alberta, it is very important that agriculture makes efficient use of its water. "On The Water Front" examines the importance of water to the southern Alberta economy. It also looks at how the $300 million from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund will be spent to improve the present irrigation system and to expand the acreage currently under irrigation.

"On The Water Front" will be aired on the following stations:-

CBRT	07:00 p.m.	March 5	Friday
CBXT	07:00 p.m.	March 8	Monday
CFAC	10:30 p.m.	March 8	Monday
CHAT	07:30 p.m.	March 8	Monday
CKRD	07:30 p.m.	March 8	Monday
CKSA	07:00 p.m.	March 11	Thursday

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAXATION SEMINAR

The tax implications of the new federal budget are one of several important topics that will be covered at a seminar, entitled "Secure Your Family's Future Through Proper Tax Planning," that will be held at the Wetaskiwin Memorial (Legion) Hall in Wetaskiwin on March 4.

Following is a list of the subjects and speakers:-

- Tax Implications of the New Federal Budget – Gary Bradshaw and Dave Hoar, regional economists, Alberta Agriculture, Red Deer.
- Rules and Regulations in Property Transfers – Eileen Hatch, Revenue Canada's Taxation Department, Edmonton. She will discuss tax rules and regulations that affect the transfer of property between people who are still alive.
- Testementary Transfers – Eileen Hatch. Here she will discuss tax rules and regulations that affect the transfer of property after death.
- Farm Estate Planning Techniques – John Corbett, Edmonton lawyer. He will talk about the importance of having a properly drafted will; drawing up agreements for sale and mortgages to defer taxes; and the transfer of assets after death.

The registration fee for "Securing Your Family's Future Through Proper Tax Planning" is $15 per person or $20 per couple. It will include a roast beef dinner for anyone who pre-registers.

To pre-register and for further information on the seminar, which will commence with registration and coffee at 9.:30 a.m. on March 4, contact the district agriculturist office in Wetaskiwin (Telephone: 352-1240); Ponoka (Telephone: 783-4476); Camrose (Telephone: 672-4411) or Rimbey (Telephone: 843-2201).

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP MARKETING SEMINAR

Are you interested in sheep marketing strategies and the outlook for wool?

The Cardston district agriculturist office and agricultural service board will hold a marketing seminar on these and other topics at the Cardston High School (4th Avenue West) on March 4.

Glynn Brooks of Canada Co-op Wool Growers in Lethbridge will report on the wool market and discuss wool handling and grading.

Ron Gordon, president of the Sheep Council of Canada, will talk about the sheep marketing situation in Canada and in Alberta as well as sheep marketing strategies and sheep marketing — "system or board?"

The seminar is free and will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For further information contact James Hansen, district agriculturist, Cardston, Alberta (Telephone: 653-4461).

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February 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPOUSE "STROKING"

by Nadine Vester
Family Living Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Have you "stroked" your spouse today? Contrary to popular myths, we never outgrow a need for "stroking".

A recent article in the Edmonton Journal was headlined "Heartache May Prove Fatal". It reported that a University of California researcher, Professor S. Leonard Syme, speaking at an American Heart Association symposium, cited studies that indicated that lack of human contact is a risk factor for heart disease. He went on to say that the level of satisfaction expressed by people seems not to matter. What counts is whether a person has ties. And men seemed to be more susceptible to "impoverished human relationships" than women.

Since human relationships are so important to our health and happiness, let us celebrate February, Heart Month, by resolving to take positive action to enrich our relationships. One way of doing this is to learn the art of "stroking".

"Strokes" are exchanges of attention between people that lead to feelings of warmth. The opposite of strokes, in this context, is put downs. Valentine or Christmas cards are examples of strokes, so are "hello, how are you?" and the other conventional greetings people exchange when they meet. Trivial? Well, maybe, but how do you feel when you greet someone who ignores you in return?

While small talk and conventional greetings are certainly better than nothing, more intense attention in terms of time and caring are needed if we are really to flourish. The strokes that really count are those that tell us we are lovable, we are important, we are capable, we would be missed. For spouses, it can be a gift carefully chosen with his or her likes and dislikes in mind, a "I was thrilled with that gift you bought me, I really wanted one". It can be

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Spouse "Stroking" (cont'd)

a good morning hug, a pat on the backside, a "You really look good tonight", or a simple "Thanks".

One of the greatest strokes you can give is listening, trying to understand your spouse's feelings without giving answers, advice or hasty reassurance. In certain contexts the greatest stroke of all is silence, the productive silence of an open mind and an attentive ear.

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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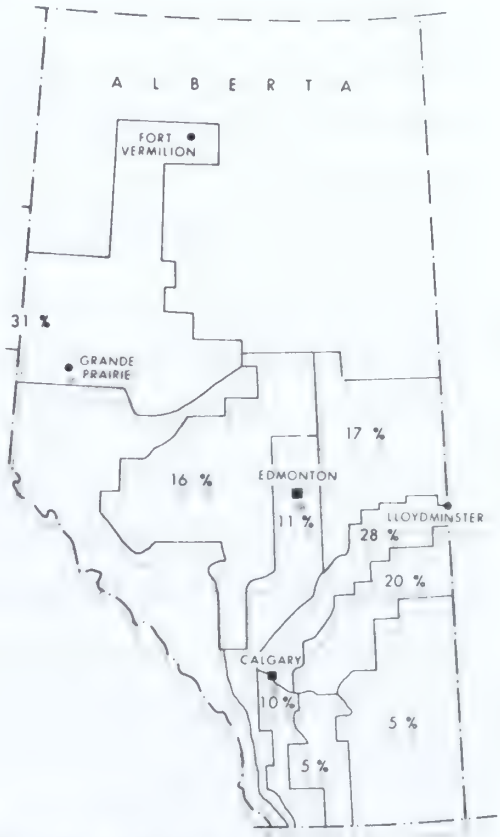
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIMING ACID SOILS

More than one million acres of strongly acid and five million acres of moderately acid soils are being farmed in Alberta today, and it is generally agreed that liming should be considered for all strongly acid soils and for many moderately acid soils.

Doug Penney, Alberta Agriculture's soil fertility specialist says that most of the acid soils (pH below 6.1) in this province are in the central part and in the Peace River region. However, because a farmer is in a predominantly acid soil area does not mean that his soil is acidic and vice versa. So the first step in managing acid soil is to ascertain whether there is a problem and if so to determine its severity. Although poor yields from acid sensitive crops may indicate an acid problem, the only sure method of identification is a soil test. According to Mr. Penney a soil test can determine the extent and the severity of soil acidity, if it is carried out carefully, and it can also determine the application rate that is required as well as provide an estimate of crop response to the lime.



Percentage of cultivated acid soils with a pH below 6.1 in various areas of Alberta.

The recommended way to sample a field is to divide it into areas on the basis of soil type or difference in crop growth. Each of these areas should be sampled separately because some areas of the field may require higher rates of lime than others and because some may not require any lime.

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Liming Acid Soils (cont'd)

An alternative to liming that can be used in some cases is to grow crops that are reasonably tolerant to acidity, but the choice of such crops will become more and more limited as the soil gradually becomes more acidic. Mr. Penney believes the long-term goal should be to lime to the pH value that is best suited to the crops being grown. "Once the desired pH level has been achieved, the amount of lime required to keep the soil in a suitable pH range will depend upon fertilizer rates used, soil type and cropping practices," he says. As a general rule, the amount of lime required to maintain the pH level of a soil is about one ton per acre every five to 10 years.

In the initial application, the rate will depend upon the change in the pH level that is desired and upon the buffering capacity of the soil. Buffering capacity refers to the amount of lime that is required to change the pH by a given amount. According to Mr. Penney, sandy soils and those low in organic matter have a low buffering capacity, while clay soils and soils high in organic matter have a high buffering capacity.

Acid soils often contain soluble forms of aluminum and manganese, and as the soil acidity level increases, soluble aluminum and manganese increase to toxic levels. Aluminum toxicity restricts the root growth and the uptake of phosphorous by plants, while manganese toxicity causes black necrotic spots or streaks on the leaves of cereal crops and chlorosis on the leaf margins of legume and rapeseed crops as well as the cupping of leaves. Both types of toxicity often result in reduced crop yield.

Soil acidity also has a direct effect upon the survival and growth or rhizobium bacteria which fix nitrogen in legume crops. The rhizobium bacteria that are associated with alfalfa and sweet clover are particularly sensitive to acidity.

An application of lime to acid soils can affect the biological, chemical and physical

Liming Acid Soils (cont'd)

properties of the soil. The increase in the soil's pH value that results from the application provides a more favorable environment for microbiological activity in the soil, which, in turn, increases the rate that plant nutrients are released, especially nitrogen.

The reduction in soil acidity that follows liming increases the availability of several other plant nutrients, notably phosphorous. "In the year that phosphorous is applied only about 20 per cent of it is taken up by the crop," Mr. Penney says. "The remainder is fixed in the soil in varying degrees of availability to succeeding crops." Since the fixed phosphorous is retained in a less available form in acid soils than is the case in slightly acid and neutral soils, one of the benefits of liming an acid soil is the increased utilization of residual phosphorous fertilizer by the crop."

An application of lime can also improve the physical properties of some soils. For example, soil crusting has been reduced, the emergence of small seeded crops like rapeseed has been improved and there has been a reduction in the power required for tillage operations on gray and dark gray wooded soils that were limed in the Peace River region.

If you think that your soil may be acidic, you can get a soil sampling guide and a sampling kit from your district agriculturist.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROWTH IMPLANTS AND MINERALS IMPROVE BEEF GAINS

The use of growth implants, a phosphorous supplement and a trace mineral-fortified salt in a trial that was carried out last summer in eastern Alberta by Alberta Agriculture and International Minerals resulted in an extra 28.5 pounds of weaned calf per cow.

Ross Gould of the special projects section of Alberta Agriculture's cattle and sheep branch reports that the trial was carried out on Hereford-Angus cross and Charolais cattle on a ranch near Youngstown, and that the cow herd was divided into three groups. Each pasture contained 125 to 150 cows and calves from which 50 steers were chosen at random during branding. Of these 50 animals, every other one was given a Ralgro implant and the others were left untreated.

The calves in pasture No.1 had been sired by Angus bulls, and they and their dams received only cobalt-iodized salt since they were to be the controls in the mineral part of the trial.

The calves in pasture No.2 were also sired by Angus bulls, and they and their dams received a calcium and phosphorous (18:18) mineral supplement and a trace mineral-fortified salt.

Both the calves and their dams in pasture No.3 were sired by Charolais bulls, and they received cobalt-iodized salt and an 18:18 mineral supplement.

Mr. Gould reports that when the calves were weighed in November (124 days after the regime had commenced), the implanted steers averaged 13.2 pounds or 5.8 per cent more than the untreated steers.

The calves in pasture No.2, including the implanted animals, averaged 15.3 pounds or 6.8 per cent more than the calves in pasture No.1.

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Growth Implants And Minerals Improve Beef Gains (cont'd)

The calves in pasture No.3, again including the implanted animals, average 14.6 pounds more than the calves in pasture No.2. However, since they were the Charolais-sired calves, and Charolais-sired calves can be expected to weigh about 30 pounds more than Angus-sired calves at weaning time, it is possible, says Mr. Gould, that the trace mineral fortified-salt that the calves in pasture No.2 received could have resulted in their having gained 15 pounds more than would normally be expected. He points out, however, that since the above results are based on only one trial, it is difficult to come to any definite conclusions. On the other hand, he feels that the results of the trial strongly suggest that the implant and mineral treatments that were used have the potential of increasing the profit from a cow-calf operation.

What do the extra gains achieved by the above methods mean in dollars? At a price of 65¢ a pound for weaned calves, the extra 13.2 pounds of gain achieved from the use of implants would mean an extra $8.58 per calf. If the implants cost $1.50 each, the return on every dollar spent on implants would be $5.72.

Also at the price of 65¢ per pound of weaned calf, the provision of an 18:18 mineral supplement and a trace mineral-fortified salt, which appeared to give an extra 15.3 pounds of gain in the above trial, would be worth $9.95 per calf. If the price of these two mineral supplements was 31¢ per pound, and a cow and her calf between them ate about 7.75 pounds over the summer, the return on every dollar spent on the supplements would be $4.15.

Hence, in a herd where 250 calves were implanted, an extra $2,145 could be realized for a cost of only $375. If the calves were also given an 18:18 mineral supplement and a trace mineral-fortified salt, on the basis of the above trial, they could be expected to

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Growth Implants And Minerals Improve Beef Gains (cont'd)

return an extra $2,487.50 for a cost of $600. If implanting was used in conjunction with the two mineral supplements, the extra return would be $4,632.50 for a cost of $975. The net result would be a return of $4.75 ($4,632.50 ÷ $975) for every dollar spent on implants and minerals.

What about improved cow herd fertility? According to Mr. Gould research in the past has shown that feeding an adequate level of phosphorous shortens the calving season, results in more calves being born per 100 cows bred, and results in heavier calves at weaning time.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1982 FORAGE SEED SUPPLIES

If you need forage seed, you will find that the supply of seed from many commonly grown varieties is very good this year and that prices are reasonable.

Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of forage crops in Lacombe, Myron Bjorge, reports that seed supplies of alsike clover, red clover, timothy and creeping red fescue are all good, and that the supply of alfalfa seed, especially the hardy varieties that are adapted to Alberta, is much better than it has been during the past few years. Supplies of brome grass, crested wheatgrass and sweet-clover are adequate.

More limited supplies of seed are available from some other forage varieties. They include such improved pasture varieties as Prairieland Altai wild-rye, Regar meadow brome grass, Kay orchard grass and common meadow foxtail. Mr. Bjorge suggest that farmers use these varieties where they are adapted to establish high productivity pastures, even though the seed is more expensive than the seed of some other forage varieties.

Seed supplies of pubescent wheat grass, intermediate wheat grass, bird's-foot trefoil, cicer milk-vetch, sainfoin and white clover are also somewhat limited.

Are you interested in bargains? According to Mr. Bjorge, there are some! He says seed is available from some public varieties that is equal to, and in some cases superior to, the seed of varieties selling for a higher price. Often the reason for this is that these public varieties have not been promoted or advertised as much as other varieties. Following are some examples of good buys.

Algonquin alfalfa – Seed of this variety is a bargain if its price is the same as the price of Beaver seed because Algonquin's performance is generally superior to that of Beaver. Algonquin has good winter hardiness and is adapted to the black and grey wooded soil areas of Alberta. Its main attribute is its rapid regrowth.

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1982 Forage Seed Supplies (cont'd)

Beaver alfalfa – Seed of this standard variety is presently inexpensive.

Dawn alsike clover – Seed of this variety should be considered in preference to seed from Aurora alsike clover if it is cheaper than Aurora seed.

Norlac red clover – Seed of this variety should be considered in preference to other single-cut red clover varieties when it is cheaper. Norlac's forage yield is only slightly lower than that of other single-cut red clover varieties.

Magna brome grass – Seed of this variety should be considered in preference to seed of Carlton brome grass when the former is cheaper.

Boreal creeping red fescue – Seed of this variety should be considered when common creeping red fescue seed would normally be used even though it is somewhat more expensive this year than the common seed.

Mr. Bjorge recommends that Certified No.1 forage seed of an adapted variety be used on most Alberta farms. He points out that although Canada No.1 seed is equivalent to Certified No.1 seed from the point of view of germination and weed seed tolerance, Canada No.1 seed is not specific to variety, and is, therefore, only suitable for situations in which the variety is predictable or in which the variety is not important.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPS ON PURCHASING FORAGE SEED

The good supply of forage seed that is available this spring is your opportunity, as a purchaser, to insist upon top quality seed that is free of undesirable weed seeds and other foreign material.

Myron Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of forage crops at Lacombe, points out that seed certificates are available for all graded forage seed, and that these certificates, in addition to containing information on germination, list all the weed seeds and other seeds that are present per 25 g (approximately one ounce) of forage seed. Since some of the weed seeds permitted under the Canada Seeds Act are classed in Alberta as restricted or noxious, even the seed certificate on Certified No.1 forage seed should be examined before the seed is purchased.

Certified No.1 forage seed has the highest level of germination and purity of the certified grades. Although Canada No.1 forage seed is equivalent to Certified No.1 forage seed from the point of view of germination and weed seed tolerance, it is not specific to variety. Hence, it is only suitable for situations in which the variety is predictable or in which the variety is not important.

Certified No.2, Canada No.2 and Canada No.3 forage seed are not generally recommended by Mr. Bjorge. He believes these grades should be considered only if the seed certificate indicates that their lower grades will not affect their field performance or future weed control problems.

He does not normally recommend forage seed mixtures either because they do not specify varieties and their quality is often lower than the equivalent common grades. For example, a Canada No.1 mixture may contain more weed seeds than Canada No.1 seed. The

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Tips On Purchasing Forage Seed (cont'd)

mixtures are also more likely than the common grades to have the minimum level of germination required and to contain the maximum number of weed seeds that are allowed. The reason for this is that lower grades, and even seed that has been rejected because its quality is too low to make any grade, are frequently used in mixture. Another disadvantage of mixtures that are offered for sale is that they often contain forage species that are not suitable for the purchaser's purpose. And finally, it is very difficult to inoculate the legumes that are contained in a forage seed mixture.

Many forage seed producers sell their seed directly to other farmers, and Mr. Bjorge approves of this practice, providing that the seed has been cleaned and graded and that it is accompanied by a seed certificate that can be examined. He says that seed that is offered for sale without having been graded is likely to be of a very low grade or to be reject seed.

Present forage seed prices provide an ideal opportunity for farmers to seed their forage stands at the rate that will give the best results. In the past few years, when forage seed prices were higher than they are now, many farmers skimped on their seeding rates, especially in the case of alfalfa.

Mr. Bjorge believes the following simple guidelines should help farmers to get better forage stands in 1982 at the lowest cost.

. Shop around for your forage seed this spring. Because forage seed prices have dropped quite substantially in the last year, they are more variable than normal.

. Purchase Certified No.1 forage seed of an adapted variety in most cases.

. Buy from a reputable firm or individual.

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March 1, 1982

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TIPS ON PURCHASING FORAGE SEED

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Tips On Purchasing Forage Seed (cont'd)

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Tips On Purchasing Forage Seed (cont'd)

. Examine the information contained on the seed certificate and pay particular attention to the type and content of weed seeds in the seedlot, regardless of the grade purchased.

. Inoculate each legume variety before you make up a mixture.

. Make your own mixture with the appropriate varieties in a ratio that will provide the best stand for your purpose.

. Seed at a high enough rate to provide the best possible stand.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANAGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOR PROFIT FULLY BOOKED

The seminar entitled Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit was already booked by the beginning of February this year, and registration had to be discontinued at that time instead of in March as was originally planned.

The seminar will be held at the Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, from March 28 to 31, and the coordinator, Ron Cuthbert of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds reports that about 400 applicants will be attending. Of this number about 70 are single farmers and 144 are farm couples. Mr. Cuthbert says that limits are placed on the allocation for out-of-province, government staff and agri-business bookings every year to save the greatest possible number for Alberta farmers. However, even with these restrictions, registrations were received this year from as far away as New Brunswick.

Mr. Cuthbert expects those who attend the 1982 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Seminar will find the program both informative and exciting! Guest speakers, many of whom will be Albertans, will discuss new grain varieties, pesticides, breakthroughs in agricultural research, computers and new ways of tackling routine farm jobs.

The human side of farming will also be covered this year. A number of well known speakers will share their views on stress, motivation and the pressures on today's farmers.

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Managing Agricultural Technology For Profit Fully Booked (cont'd)

And tax and estate planning and farm finance are on the agenda again. Speakers from the United States and the United Kingdom with international reputations in farm management, marketing, stress and human resource management will round off the program. Dr. David Suzuki of the University of British Columbia will deliver the closing address entitled Science Frontier — Impact on Agriculture.

If you are one of the unlucky ones who missed out on this year's seminar, you should book early for the 1983 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Seminar. Application forms will be available from district offices in December 1982 and January 1983.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SYMPOSIUM ON LAND USE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Land use and environmental conflicts between various industries, agriculture and the public will be covered in a one-day symposium at the Red Deer Community College in Red Deer on March 6.

Sponsored by the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, the symposium will be divided into four sections: Overview/Land Use, Reclamation, Agriculture/Wildlife and Industrial Pollution.

Overview/Land Use

. Overview Discussion of Agriculture and the Environment — Kim Sanderson, consultant to the Environment Council of Alberta.

. Agricultural Land Use Policy in Alberta — Brian Colgan, director, Land Use Activities, Alberta Agriculture.

Reclamation

. Reclamation of Coal Mines in the Plains Region of Alberta — Bob Logan, Luscar Ltd.

. Can Agricultural Productivity be Restored to Disturbed Land? — Leon Marciak, Land Use Activities, Alberta Agriculture.

. Reclamation Research Priorities and Programs in the Plains Region of Alberta — Paul Ziemkiewicz, Reclamation Research, Energy and Natural Resources.

Agriculture/Wildlife

. Agriculture/Wildlife Issues from the Perspective of the Sportsman — Elmur Kure, Alberta Fish and Game Association.

. Wildlife Programs for Agriculture Lands — Bill Glasgow, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division.

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Symposium On Land Use And The Environment (cont'd)

. The Agricultural Extension Program for Ducks Unlimited — Wayne Cowan, Ducks Unlimited.

Industrial Pollution

. Effects of Sulphur on Livestock — Dr. Michael Prior, Alberta Environmental Centre.

. Effects of Sulphur Deposition on Soil — Dr. Marvin Nyborg, Soil Science, University of Alberta.

George Friesen, Project Agricultural Land, will be the luncheon speaker and Dr. Dixon Thompson, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary will be the guest speaker at the banquet.

Registration at the door will be $20 per person. If you have any questions, please contact Allan Garbutt, registration secretary, at 434-1372 or 434-1844.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAMILY FARM CO-OPERATION

Keeping the Family Farm Together! This is the topic that Dr. Ron Hanson of the University of Nebraska, U.S.A., will be discussing in Camrose on the evening of March 12.

Dr. Hanson has earned national recognition in the United States for his work in farm management at the College of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska, and he will be discussing the personal and communications aspects of the family farm operation at the Camrose meeting.

Following is a list of the topics he will cover.

- How to keep everyone informed of the activities on the farm.
- When the best time is for a son to enter into the business.
- How to plan your estate taking into consideration non-farming children.
- What a daughter-in-law's role is in the family business.
- How to avoid difficulties which could arise if a son decides to quit farming after a few years.
- Problems that can arise if parents make too many changes when a son starts farming with them.

The meeting will start at 6.30 p.m. on March 12 and will be held in the Viking Cultural Center in Camrose. Tickets are $15 for a single person and $25 per couple, and they can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district office in Camrose (4909C - 48 Street) or from the Camrose Agricultural Society.

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March 1, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPAETZLE ADDS A PERSONAL TOUCH

There is something special about trying something a little different when you are cooking and making spaetzle adds that personal touch in this day of convenience foods.

Perhaps you are wondering what spaetzle is. It is made of eggs, flour and water. The dough is then cut into tiny noodle-like dumplings and simmered in boiling water or soup. Spaetzle is very popular in the European cuisine where the dumplings are often simmered in soup and mixed with vegetables, topped with a stew, tossed with butter and sprinkled with bread crumbs or mingled with cheese.

The following recipe for spaetzle was submitted by Suzanne Tenold, a food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

3 eggs
2½ cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup water

Beat eggs until light. Add rest of ingredients and beat well. Beat in more water if dough is too heavy to pinch easily.

Pinch off tiny pieces of dough with a spoon or cut them off with a knife on a bread board and drop them into a pot of salted, boiling water or soup. Simmer them until they float. Then remove them with a slotted spoon and repeat the procedure with the remaining dough.

Makes 6 servings.

You can also use such things as a spaetzle grater, a potato ricer, a coarse sieve, a food mill or a pastry bag and a cake decorating nozzle to divide the dough into small pieces.

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP SUPPORT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The deadline for receipt of application forms for assistance under the 1981 Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program is March 31, 1982. Anyone who wants to apply for this assistance can do so through his district agriculturist.

The large number of applications that have been completed in district agriculturist offices across the province are presently being processed, and Dr. Bruce Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, says payments will be going out shortly to those who applied early for this assistance.

There are four schedules under the program.

The Herd Maintenance Schedule will pay $50 per head on 90 per cent of the herd inventory that was on hand on September 1, 1981.

The Backgrounder Schedule will pay $4 per hundredweight on the sale weight of feeder cattle.

The Slaughter Schedule will pay $4 per hundredweight on slaughter cattle and calves.

The Sheep Schedule has two options. One covers the breeding flock and feeder and slaughter lambs. The other covers only slaughter lambs.

Dr. Jeffery says that there are specific guidelines and restrictions that apply to each of the above schedules and that the information is available from all district agriculturists.

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March 8, 1982

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IN TROUBLE – USE SMALL BUSINESS BONDS

by Merle Good
Financial Management, Alberta Agriculture

As you may or may not know the federal minister of finance, Allan MacEachen, reorganized the Small Business Development Bond (SBDB) program in his November 12, 1981 budget and brought forth a new Small Business Bond (SBB) Program. Not only has development been dropped from the title of the new program but, regretfully, it has also been dropped from the program itself.

Under the SBDB program that was established in 1979, interest payable on a loan was deemed to be a dividend, which meant that it was not taxable to the lender, such as a bank, and that it could not be deducted by the borrower. The net result was that a lender could charge approximately one half of the normal lending rate and still retain the same net earnings.

However, under the SBB program only those businesses (corporate and unincorporated) that are in financial difficulty will qualify for assistance. Although the program was highlighted in the budget as an "incentive program for small businesses", in reality it represents only a "band aid" approach to their problems because it does not help them to avoid financial difficulties as the SBDB program did. In fact, the new program appears to completely disregard the old adage that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", especially in today's economic turmoil.

What is Financial Difficulty?

Financial difficulty, according to a recent release by Revenue Canada, means that:

a) The applicant must be in default or be expected to default on an arm's-length debt. "Default" is defined as a general inability to pay; a person cannot simply refuse to pay

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In Trouble — Use Small Business Bonds (cont'd)

in order to qualify under the SBB program. "Expected to default" means that there is a reasonable possibility of a default occurring. It does not mean that a default must have occurred before an applicant can be approved. An "arm's-length debt" is a debt between unrelated people. Hence, a loan that has been arranged between people who are related cannot be refinanced under the SBB program.

b) The applicant cannot have other personal resources outside his business that could reasonably be used. In other words, an applicant who had a condominium in Hawaii would have to sell it and use those funds in his business before he could qualify under the SBB program.

c) The applicant must be unable to obtain further financing from any other source. Some chartered banks that were surveyed felt that an applicant had to be denied credit by a competitor before he could qualify under this section.

What are Some of the Rules Regarding an SBB Loan?

The principle amount of the loan must be between $10,000 and $500,000. The minimum term of the loan is one year and the maximum term is five years. Although a financial institution can still approve a loan for a longer amortization period, the special dividend treatment will be in effect for only five years. And the loan must be acquired before December 31, 1982.

Another regulation requires both the borrower and the lender to jointly file a specific election (agreement) with Revenue Canada, which indicates that the loan qualifies and that the interest will be treated as a special non-taxable dividend. This must be done within 90 days of the bond having been issued. More than one bond can be issued to one borrower providing that the total principle amount of all his bonds does not exceed $500,000.

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In Trouble — Use Small Business Bonds (cont'd)

What Effect Does The Reduced Interest Rate Offered by the SBB Program Have?

An analysis of the following table, where a prime interest rate of 17 per cent has been assumed (the normal borrowing rate is prime plus 2 per cent) will show the benefit that can be expected under the SBB program.

A.	Normal Interest Rate Loan		
	Prime 17% + 2%	19%	
	Less 10% tax	1.9%	
	Effective after tax cost		17.1%
B.	SBDB Loan		
	Prime 17% + 2% = $\frac{19\%}{2}$ +1—.05% =	11%	
	Less 10% tax	nil	
	Effective after tax cost		11%
C.	Saving (the difference in the two rates)		6.1%

Note: The rate is floating; not fixed. Many lending institutions are offering the same rate on SBB loans at your regular borrowing rate (Prime + ___) and then dividing by 2 and adding 1.5 per cent.

Would It Be Worth My While to Consider Using the SBB Program?

The benefit for anyone who qualifies for this program is obvious from the above table. The reduction in interest costs by 6 percentage points will generate additional cash to service liabilities and to meet living expenses. And the loss of the provision which allows interest payments to be deducted from income poses no problem because businesses in financial difficulty rarely face a tax problem.

However, since the SBB program is only a "band aid" approach to financial difficulties, you may be wise to review your managerial practices so that you can survive after your SBB loan has expired.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE

March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACHIEVING HIGH BEEF GAINS ON PASTURE

How did the Pembina Forage Association obtain 300 pounds of beef per acre on its pasture north of Westlock?

Alberta Agriculture's forage specialist, Ken Lopetinsky, says many decisions were made during the grazing season, but that the most crucial concerned rotational grazing, fertility and stocking rate.

Rotational Grazing

The association's 150-acre pasture was divided into four equal-sized paddocks that were grazed for periods ranging from five to 15 days. The goal was to move the steers when the plants had been grazed down to 4 inches and the pasture on to which the animals were to be moved had reached a height of 8 inches. When the steers were unable to keep up with plant growth, the excess forage was removed as hay. According to Mr. Lopetinsky, this practice resulted in good regrowth and an addition three-week period of leafy, very palatable forage.

"The key to rotational grazing", he says, "is to minimize plant stress by grazing the plants at the proper stage of growth and then to allow them a sufficient rest period before they are regrazed".

Fertility

The Pembina Forage Association's fertility program involved broadcasting 70 pounds of nitrogen, 25 pounds of phosphorous and 10 pounds of potassium in November of 1980 and another 70 pounds of nitrogen in July of 1981.

Mr. Lopetinsky reports that the 140 pounds of nitrogen resulted in forage yields that ranged from 2.2 to 3.6 tons per acre. And a very low weed population (2 per cent on a dry weight basis) was an additional benefit. Mr. Lopetinsky says $42 per acre may seem

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Achieving High Beef Gains On Pasture (cont'd)

expensive and risky, but when weighed against returns of 300 pounds of beef per acre, it is definitely a profitable proposition!

Stocking Rate

The Pembina pasture was stocked with 121 head of yearling steers on May 22, 1981 whose average weight was 700 pounds, and another 15 steers on June 30, 1981, which gave a stocking rate 0.85 steers per acre. Although high stocking rates can have a negative effect on individual gains, in terms of total gain per acre, the net gain per acre will be higher with more intensive grazing. Mr. Lopetinsky reports that individual gains over the Pembina pasture period ranged all the way from 165 pounds to 455 pounds, with the average gain being more than 2.5 pounds per day. He also reports that 25 tons of hay were harvested even with this level of performance, and that the pasture had sufficient carryover at the end of the season for the next year.

The Pembina Forage Association's goal is to produce almost 400 pounds of beef per acre this year. To achieve this goal they intend to use a more intensive rotational grazing system (halving present pasture sizes and rotating the animals on a three-day interval instead of five to 15-day intervals. They also intend to use stocking rates of up to 1.3 head per acre.

Mr. Lopetinsky points out that although rotational grazing, fertility and stocking rate are extremely important in producing a high rate of gain, such things as good animal health care, pest control, the use of growth implants and minimizing animal stress all play a part in achieving a high level of gain from beef on pasture.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERTHA ARMYWORM REPORT

As in previous years, bertha armyworms damaged canola and flax crops in parts of Alberta.

According to Dr. H.J. Liu, field crops entomologist with the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, the largest number of armyworms were found in the counties of Vulcan and Willow Creek where approximately 2,600 hectares were sprayed. She says spot infestations also developed south of Lethbridge and near Brooks. While central Alberta remained relatively free, armyworm populations that were high enough to cause damage occurred in canola crops in scattered locations near Barrhead and in the Peace River region. Dr. Liu reports that growers who harvested their canola crops early in these areas escaped damage, but that those who harvested late-seeded or re-seeded crops were affected.

She also reports that the pheromone traps that were set out in canola fields last years did an effective job of alerting growers to potential problems in most canola-producing areas and that they will be available again this year.

In addition to providing the traps, the environmental centre at Vegreville will be conducting research in the Peace River region and in the Calgary area to establish the relationship between the number of moths that are captured and the number of armyworms that develop and to improve monitoring methods for all the developmental stages of this insect.

Any canola grower who would like to obtain pheromone traps or who would like more information on this year's research program should contact Dr. H.J. Liu, Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville, Alberta, T0B 4L0 (Telephone: 632-6767).

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division
Phone: (403) 427-2127

March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"PLOWDOWN"

Have you heard of plowdown? Do you know what it is?

Plowdown, which has been referred to as the "Strategy for the Eighties", involves allowing a legume crop, such as clover, to grow until it reaches the blossom stage and then incorporating the entire crop into the soil to increase its nitrogen content and organic matter.

Where should this cultural practice be used? It will be beneficial in all areas where the annual rainfall is usually high enough to provide for normal crop growth and where summerfallowing will not significantly contribute to a moisture reserve build-up.

According to an article published by the Alberta Forage Seed Council, entitled "Plowdown", the entire cultivated area outside the Palliser Triangle in Western Canada would benefit considerably if a large percentage of its summerfallowed acreage was subjected to plowdown. This area includes all the parkland; the black and grey wooded soil zones of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, some of the brown soils in these regions, the Peace River block and the interior of British Columbia. More than 10 million acres are summerfallowed in this area every year, but summerfallowing can be justified on only a small portion of this acreage.

There are, undoubtedly, valid reasons for summerfallowing such as special soil, weed or pest problems. But, in most cases, summerfallowing is done as a matter of convenience or as a matter of habit with little thought being given to the economic losses that result from the breakdown of the soil's organic matter, accelerated erosion and leaching of valuable plant nutrients.

The Alberta Forage Seed Council says that legume plowdown is most beneficial and results in increased productivity in areas that are low lying, areas that are subject to flooding and erosion and areas that tend towards salinity. Apparently the greatest improvement

- (cont'd) -

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"Plowdown" (cont'd)

from plowdown will be noted on heavy textured or clay soils which require a large quantity of organic matter to maintain their proper tilth. However, almost all soils will improve or at least fulfil the fertility maintenance criterion.

"Plowdown"also contains information on legume nitrogen fixation; research that supports the plowdown concept; the legumes to use in a plowdown program; and how to manage plowdown.

A copy of "Plowdown" and information on the plowdown concept can be obtained from the Alberta Forage Seed Council, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-5359).

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARBLE INSPECTIONS

Although the number of warble infested slaughter cattle in Alberta dropped from 44 per cent in 1968 to only 14 per cent in 1980, warbles are still robbing Alberta farmers of $4 million a year. And they are costing the packing industry another $2 million in lost time, devalued hides and devalued carcasses.

It is for this reason that warble inspections are being continued again this spring in all cattle markets and terminal stockyards as part of the province's total warble infestation monitoring system.

Alberta Agriculture's livestock pest specialist, Dr. Ali Khan, reminds cattlemen that the Agricultural Pest Act requires every cattle producer in Alberta to take the necessary measures to destroy all warble grubs in their cattle every year to prevent reinfestation of their herds. He says that all counties, municipal districts, improvement districts and special areas in the province are officially warble control areas. And agricultural service board fieldmen and their appointed inspectors will be visiting farms that have a history of warble infestations during March and April to advise and help their owners to organize a better warble control program.

The monitoring of warble infested carcasses will also continue at packing plants so that sources of infested cattle can be identified. The information that is collected will then be used to help local agricultural service boards with their extension education programs and to enforce the warble control program in Alberta.

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL LAND BASE

"Security of the Agricultural Land Base" is the theme of a seminar that will take place at the Convention Inn South in Edmonton on March 12. It is being sponsored by the Alberta Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America.

Following is a list of the speakers and their topics.

Wayne Pettapiece – Canada Department of Agriculture

- keynote address
- definition of existing agricultural land base
- loss of agricultural lands due to various factors including urbanization, industrialization, utility corridors, salinization and erosion
- potential for compensation by irrigation and expansion of frontier

Mick Manett – City of Edmonton

- urban growth strategy for Edmonton
- land use requirements of urban expansion
- approach to development on agricultural lands

Walter Nieboer – Transalta Utilities Corporation

- problems of planning utility corridors on agricultural lands
- methods of addressing these problems

Ted Lansky – Urban Development Institute

- availability of land for development
- constraints on developers and relationship to developing prime agricultural lands
- impact of urban growth strategy

- (cont'd)S

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Seminar On Agricultural Land Base (cont'd)

Gordon Moulton – Surface Rights Federation

- impact on agricultural community of development pressures, disruptions
- agricultural community's role in securing the agricultural land base

Ron Hicks, president of the Alberta Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, will open the seminar with the President's Address.

Registration at the door will be $5 for members of the society and for students and $7 for others. You can obtain additional information on the seminar from Ron Hicks at 427-8985 in Edmonton or John White at 261-8346 in Calgary.

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March 8, 1982

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRETCHING YOUR FERTILIZER DOLLAR

"Stretching Your Fertilizer Dollar" is the theme of a soil fertility seminar that will be held at the Norseman Motor Inn in Camrose on March 17.

The program, which will start at 10.a.m., will include the following topics:

- Getting the Most from Your Soil Test — Ed Dobco, agrologist with Imperial Oil Ltd, Edmonton. He will outline the basics of soil testing, crop nutrient requirements and interpreting soil tests.
- Fertility Placement — John Timmermans, Western Cooperative Fertilizers, Calgary. He will discuss when, where and how to apply fertilizers for optimum performance.
- Optimizing Your Dollars — Gary Bradshaw, regional economist with Alberta Agriculture, Red Deer. He will talk about decisions concerning the amount of money a farmer can afford to spend on fertilizers.
- Fertilizer Blending and Available Products — Dave McIntyre, Alberta Wheat Pool, Camrose.
- Alternatives to Using Fertilizer — Dr. Wendall Rich, Federal Research Station at Beaverlodge. He will examine various ways of reducing commercial fertilizer requirements while maintaining good crop yields.

The registration fee, which includes lunch, is $15 per person or $20 per couple. Every farmer who attends the seminar will be eligible to win one ton of fertilizer valued at $400. This door prize was donated by the Alberta Wheat Pool in Camrose.

Anyone who plans to attend "Stretching Your Fertilizer Dollar" is requested to pre-register by March 12. This can be done by contacting the district agriculturist office in Camrose, Rimbey, Wetaskiwin or Ponoka.

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAVELLING FASHION SHOW

Alberta Agriculture's 4-H Branch and the Simplicity/Style Pattern Company have joined forces again to produce a second travelling fashion show. This second show is the result of the tremendous response to the first, which featured a fall and winter collection of the newest fashions, fabrics and colors.

The second travelling fashion show will feature trends in fashions for the spring and summer seasons, and the wardrobe will be available to all 4-H clothing clubs in Alberta. Sandy Wallick of the 4-H branch says the wardrobe will consist of approximately 24 garments that are expected to provide an inspiration to the 4-H members as well as to those who attend the fashion shows.

She explains that 4-H members first learn the basics of grooming and modelling from a slide tape presentation and materials that are provided by the 4-H branch, and that they then model the outfits in the wardrobe for club members or for members of the community. She adds that those shows provide a valuable learning experience for the 4-H'ers and a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all who attend them.

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIGHT INFLATION WITH AN OLD SHEET!

by Bertha Eggertson
Clothing and Textile Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Wait! Don't throw out those old sheets that have been worn thin in the middle. Each contain approximately three square metres of fabric that can be used in many ways.

For example, old sheets make children's fantastic costumes. You can create anything from a mummy to a ghost from the unworn sections, and you can easily dye the sheets different colors.

Then there is the "instant" batik. Children will have great fun drawing on pieces of an old sheet with wax crayons and then covering the drawings with absorbent paper and melting the design into the material with an iron.

If you want to be more practical, you can use the unworn sections of a large sheet to make a sheet for a baby's crib or a sheet for a child's bed. You can also use the unworn sections of a sheet to make pillow cases for your camper or for your cottage. And you can decorate the pillow cases by using the fancy stitches on the sewing machine, making drawings with a felt pen, block printing or creating an "instant" batik.

Still another alternative is to use the strong sections of a worn sheet to interface many types of garments. An advantage of using a section of sheet for interfacing is that you do not have to preshrink it. An old sheet is also ideal for making a "test" garment if you want to check the style or fit of a new pattern.

And a recycled sheet makes an excellent backing for quilt blocks and it makes excellent linings for toss cushions.

- (cont'd) -

Fight Inflation With An Old Sheet! (cont'd)

Even the ' unuseable" sections of an old sheet can become "useable" if they are used to protect your clothes when you are painting and as paint rags or for tying garden plants to stakes, for lining or stuffing craft items or even for hanging on a T-shaped stake in strips to frighten birds away.

The above are just a few of the many ways of extending the life of an old sheet and, thereby, fighting inflation!

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March 8, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGY SECTION HEAD APPOINTED

Dr. Bart Bolwyn, head of plant sciences at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Dr. Prem Kharbanda to the position of head of the plant pathology section.

In this position Dr. Kharbanda will be responsible for the supervision and development of the section and for co-ordinating applied research and diagnostic and extension activities with other agencies.

He joined the Alberta Environmental Centre as a plant pathologist in September 1981. He had a background of experience in research at the University of Manitoba and at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center where he worked on diseases of legume crops and greenhouse vegetable and ornamental crops with special emphasis on fungicides and plant disease control. He will continue with research in his new position on economically important crop diseases in Alberta and he will take part in the diagnostic and extension services of his section.

Dr. Kharbanda did his undergraduate and master's degree work in India and received a doctorate in plant pathology from the University of Illinois, U.S.A. He is a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the American Phytopathological Society.

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H RECEIVES GRANT FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECT

C.J. (Chuck) Moser, executive director of the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Alberta presenting a $21,000 cheque to Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, for the development of a 4-H wildlife habitat project.

Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch has received a $21,000 grant from the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Alberta to develop a wildlife habitat project.

The cheque was presented to Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, at a ceremony at the University of Alberta by the executive director of the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, C.J. (Chuck) Moser. This foundation was created in 1976 to promote the management, conservation and preservation of fish and wildlife in the province.

The 4-H wildlife habitat project will be designed to encourage the retention and development of wildlife habitats in Alberta and, perhaps, even in the other Prairie provinces. Retention and development of such habitats is particularly important on private lands where trees, sloughs and other areas that foster wildlife populations are fast disappearing as a result

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Alberta

4-H Receives Grant For Wildlife Habitat Project (cont'd)

of today's intensive farming operations. The main goal of the project will be to give the generation of young people that will be taking over these lands a better understanding and appreciation of the important part that wildlife plays in maintaining a balance in our ecosystems.

According to Sandy Wallick of the 4-H branch, the grant will be used to accumulate research information on the environment and the use of land as it pertains to the preservation of wildlife as well as information on the optimum management of the wildlife itself.

She says the information will be disseminated to 4-H members who participate in the project through project and record books. There will be one set of these books for the junior members and one for the senior members. The project books will contain guidelines on environment, land use and wildlife management concepts and the record books will contain questions on these concepts to test the knowledge of participants. Each member's record book will be judged once a year by a panel made up of representatives from 4-H, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources and Environment Canada.

And every regional 4-H office will be given an instructional kit so that volunteer leaders can use it when they are working with club members. These kits will contain brochures, tapes and slides.

Application forms for participating in the Wildlife Habitat Project will not be accepted until January 1983 because it will take until then to get the project properly set up.

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND ACCELERATED TAX WRITE-OFFS

If you are considering installing energy conservation or pollution control equipment on your farm, you would be wise to check with the appropriate authorities before you buy it to find out whether or not it will qualify for an accelerated tax write-off.

In the mid-1970's special capital cost allowance provisions were incorporated in the Canada Income Tax Act which allowed a tax write-off on a straight line basis to a maximum of 50 per cent in the first year and 50 per cent in the second year on certain types of capital assets that are used to conserve energy or to control pollution. However, if the November 12, 1981 budget becomes law, the capital cost allowance on energy conservation and pollution control capital assets that were bought after this date will be limited to 25 per cent in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year. Those that were bought prior to November 12, 1981 will be depreciated at the old rate.

Energy Conservation

In most cases, to qualify for this accelerated tax write-off, the capital assets related to energy conservation must have been purchased after May 25, 1976 and before 1985 when the accelerated tax write-off provision is scheduled to be discontinued.

Any farmer whose operation extracts heat from the thermal waste of a production process or from a farm building heating system can claim the components of such a system under the accelerated tax write-off provision. A dairy enterprise that uses a heat exchange system is an example of an operation that could qualify. The components of this type of system, which extracts the heat from milk and uses it to heat the air or water in the barn, would be eligible for an accelerated tax write-off.

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Energy Conservation And Pollution Control Equipment And Accelerated Tax Write-Offs (cont'd)

Active solar heating equipment acquired after December 10, 1979 and before 1985 is also elegible for an accelerated write-off, providing it is being used to heat air or a liquid during the course of manufacturing or processing; it is being used for heating a new building or structure; or it is being used to heating water for livestock consumption or for washing operations.

To receive this accelerated write-off farmers who have already installed energy conservation equipment and those who are considering buying such equipment must complete an application form, which provides a technical description of the process being used, or contemplated; and information on the amount of energy that is, or would be, conserved; the source of the energy; the installation capital cost; and, if the equipment has already been installed, the date on which it was purchased. These forms can be obtained from: Tax Incentive Program, T.I.P. Secretariat, Energy Mines and Resources, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E4.

Pollution Control Equipment

Any building or structural modification to a building that is an integral part of a farm's water or air pollution control system could be eligible for an accelerated tax write-off. However, the enterprise for which pollution control equipment has been installed must have been producing an income before 1974 and have continued to produce an income since that time. If, for example, a farmer builds a new hog barn which has pollution control devices built into it, he must be able to show that he has continued to receive an income from hogs since before 1974 to be eligible to claim an accelerated tax write-off. Similarly, the owner of a beef confinement barn would probably be allowed to claim a certain percentage of the total cost of the barn under the accelerated tax write-off provision.

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Energy Conservation And Pollution Control
Equipment And Accelerated Tax Write-Offs (cont'd)

Among the capital assets that could qualify for an accelerated tax write-off under pollution control are: a liquid manure holding tank, a dam or dugout used as a lagoon or settling pond in the pollution treatment process; floor slats and the pit underneath them; a manure spreader; a pump; a tank agitator and devices that are used to control vehicle emissions.

Before any pollution control capital assets can be written-off under the accelerated tax provision, they must be approved by the Minister of Environment and an application form that describes the pollution control process and equipment must be completed. It can be obtained from the ACCA Program, Department of Environment, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3. This office will also issue approval on pollution control equipment before it has been purchased.

Anyone who has not previously claimed the accelerated tax write-off on a capital asset that is eligible can apply to the appropriate authority, as stated above, for permission to transfer it into the depreciation class and claim the tax write-off.

Further information on accelerated tax write-offs can be obtained from Nancy Nicholson, Financial Management Section, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or from a publication entitled "Fast Tax Write-Offs for Farmers" (Agdex 837-12). It is available from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELENIUM MAY BE POISONOUS TO LAMBS

by C. Schipper, D.V.M.,
Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture

White muscle disease of lambs is often blamed when lambs are stillborn, weak, become unthrifty or are sick early in life. This disease, also called nutritional muscular dystrophy, is attributed to a selenium deficiency, and the less serious forms often respond quite remarkably to treatment by a intramuscular injection of a selenium solution.

Many sheep producers in the selenium-deficient grey soil zones of Alberta (generally west of High No.2) routinely feed a mineral supplement containing adequate selenium on a year round schedule. Others may inject their pregnant ewes with selenium a month or so before they lamb. Some do not worry about selenium deficiency all year. Instead, they prefer to routinely administer a "shot of selenium" to all newborn lambs to prevent white muscle disease. It is not unusual for these lambs to be given such an injection several times, particularly when there appears to be something wrong with them or if they do not look as lively as one would have liked.

However, selenium can be very poisonous to lambs if they are overdosed. Earlier during this lambing season, 40 two-week old lambs died shortly after they were given a ½ mL injection of a selenium solution made up for cattle. The label on the bottle reads "Give 1 mL (1 mL) per 40 kg of body weight as a prevention for white muscle disease of calves". This solution contained 7 mg of selenium per mL. When the lambs were given ½ mL of this preparation, they actually received 3.5 mg of pure selenium each. The normal safe dose for lambs of up to two weeks of age is up to about 0.5 mg per lamb.

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Selenium May Be Poisonous To Lambs (cont'd)

Lamb deaths due to selenium toxicity may be avoided by:

- Ensuring that the disease problem is really due to a selenium deficiency. One should rule out and eliminate other lamb killers such as cold stress, lack of milk, injuries, navel infection and pneumonia before white muscle disease is assumed to be the problem. Injecting sick lambs with selenium if they do not need it will only add to their stress and could possibly hasten their deaths.

- Buying and using a preparation designed for lambs only if you are reasonably sure that a selenium deficiency is the cause of the disease. The dosage given should be based on the body weight of the lambs to be treated. Recommendations on the label should be followed exactly.

- Not using a selenium solution designed for cattle because the concentration of pure selenium in it may be too high. For instance, it is very difficult to give lambs a dose of 1/10 to 1/20 of a mL with a 10 mL syringe.

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CORRECTION

The correct telephone number of the Alberta Forage Seed Council is 427-5357 and not 427-5359 as indicated in the March 8, 1982 Agri-News article entitled "Plowdown"

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCREASING THE CASH FLOW FROM A COW-CALF OPERATION

An analysis of two recent production economics studies carried out in the Hanna and High River areas shows that a cow-calf operator can increase his cash flow by as much as $53 per head if he can increase his calving percentage and his average weaning weights.

Lorne Owen, Alberta Agriculture's regional economist at Airdrie and Don Milligan, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor, also at Airdrie, who were involved in the studies, say that it is possible to achieve a calving percentage of as high as 96 per cent with optimum nutrition and management. This figure represents an increase of from 10 to 15 per cent above the norm.

The studies showed that a 10 per cent increase in a calf crop can return an extra $30 per head. However, achievement of this extra income necessitates feeding an adequate level of both energy and protein for fetus development and an adequate level of phosphorous during the last six weeks of pregnancy to encourage ovulation and rebreeding. And it is necessary to provide the cows and calves with protection against bad weather as well as clean and disease-free facilities.

Under optimum management, weaning weights of 550 and 575 pounds for steers and 500+ for heifers are also a realistic goal, according to the studies. The studies show that a cow-calf producer who increases his average weaning weight by 50 pounds can expect an additional $23 per head above the extra costs that he incurs. Higher weaning weights can be obtained by planned cross-breeding programs, efficient pasture management and good feeding programs.

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Increasing The Cash Flow From A Cow-Calf Operation (cont'd)

The combined economic benefits of these two management strategies are considerable. For example, a 10 per cent increase in calving percentage plus a 50-pound increase in average weaning weights will add $10,600 to the income from a 200-head cow-calf operation.

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CORRECTION

The last sentence in the third paragraph of the article entitled "On Farm Livestock Slaughter" (February 22 issue of Agri-News) should read "They can either have the meat processed and packaged for sale at the abattoir, or at any other meat outlet of their choice, or they can process and package it themselves for their own use."

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILL YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME BE ENOUGH?

by Pauline McCardle
Home Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie

Pensions and future security are becoming major concerns for many Canadians, and, for most, their retirement income will be made up of three components.

These components, which can be thought of as the three umbrellas that will eventually shelter you in your retirement, are government sponsored benefits, company or employer benefits and personal finances. To assess the adequacy of your retirement income, you need to know what you will receive from each of these sources.

To find out the facts about potential government-sponsored benefits, you should get a copy of the publication entitled "Basic Facts on Social Security Programs" from the federal Department of Health and Welfare office that is closest to you. The Department of Health and Welfare has district offices in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge and offices that are open on a part-time basis in Camrose, Edson, Grande Prairie, Peace River, St. Paul, Wetaskiwin, Blairmore, Medicine Hat, Drumheller and Red Deer. Any of the above offices can help you to determine the benefits you will be eligible for under the Old Age Security Pension, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, the Spouse's Allowance and the Canada Pension Plan.

In Alberta a provincial allowance is automatically paid to resident pensioners who receive the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement. You do not have to apply for this allowance, but if you would like information on it, you should contact the Alberta Assured Income Plan Supplement, 10030 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3E4.

Since employer-sponsored pension plans vary considerably, if you are participating in one, you should know the formula on which your benefits are based. Is it based on years of service with the company? What salary basis is used to calculate the benefits – your

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Will Your Retirement Income Be Enough (cont'd)

life time average, your final three years or your best five-year average? Are your pension benefits continued to your spouse or dependants? If your pension plan has survivor benefits are they reduced upon your death and if so by how much? Are the benefits indexed to keep up with inflation?

If you decide to leave your present employer, what happens to your pension contributions and your employer's contributions? If you take out your own contributions, do you lose your employer's contributions? If you take out your own contributions, what rate of interest will you receive on them? If you leave your own contributions in the plan at what rate of interest will they accumulate? Are there any provisions in your plan for rolling over your contributions and your employer's contributions to another plan or to a registered retirement savings plan?

If you are planning to join a firm that has an employer-sponsored pension plan, you should find out whether there is an age requirement for participating in the plan and the number of years you will have to be employed before you are eligible to participate in it? Also, do you have to be a full-time employee to be eligible to participate?

The personal finance component of your retirement income could include such things as a registered retirement savings plan, a registered retirement investment fund, dividends and interest from investments, rental income from real estate and a personal life insurance plan.

Remember, the key to an adequate retirement income is to plan now!

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March 15, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A GUIDE TO AGRICULTURAL PERIODICALS

Have you heard about a publication entitled "A Guide to Agricultural Periodicals Published in Western Canada – 1981"?

It is the first edition of a list of agricultural periodicals that are currently being published in Western Canada, and it is designed to make the public aware of these sources of information. The periodicals that are listed range all the way from one page newsletters to magazines and academic journals.

The list is divided into two sections – a subject section so that those who use it can find specific titles in a broad subject area, and an index of the titles of the various periodicals which can be used as a guide to the subject section. The entries in the subject section contain information on where the periodical can be obtained, the cost of the subscription, if there is a cost, and other pertinent data.

"A Guide To Agricultural Periodicals Published in Western Canada – 1981" (Agdex 003-1) can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 ALBERTA BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP SUPPORT PROGRAM : A PROGRESS REPORT

The 1981 Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program is progressing well. According to Bruce Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, applicants will start receiving payments shortly. To date, about 53,000 applications have been received at the district offices. The handling of these has been a massive undertaking by the district agriculturists and their staff. About 30,000 of the completed applications have now been received at headquarters.

Over 1,500 applications per day are being processed. Of 12,000 processed applications, Dr. Jeffery reports only 175 have had to be rejected. Most of the rejections or adjustments fall into the following categories: sale of animals outside the dates as specified in the policy guidelines; inclusion of slaughter cows that were not accompanied by grading slips to show that they graded A, B or C; and claims on replacement heifers where there are no mature breeding cows in the herd.

Inspections are being carried on throughout the province. Anyone found deliberately falsifying an application or providing misleading information foregoes payments under all schedules of the program. In general, says Dr. Jeffery, inspections show that applicants have been very diligent and careful in completing their applications. However, there are a few who will lose the privileges of the program.

Deadline for producers to make application through Alberta Agriculture's district offices is March 31, 1982.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOOD SEED MONTH

March is set aside each year to emphasize the importance of good seed in crop production. Producers of grain and oilseed crops should start with good quality seed to help ensure themselves of a good crop. Murray McLelland, supervisor of cereal crops for Alberta Agriculture, reminds producers that the extra cost of good seed is very little in comparison to the returns and peace of mind that are obtained.

Good seed has large, plump kernels that result in better germination, better stand establishment, better weed competition, better disease resistance and ultimately higher yields. Good seed is as free as possible from weed seed and seed of other crop kinds. Just one weed seed per pound would result in about 70 weed seeds per acre being sown in the field.

When considering seed, look at the purity test. This test indicates not only the amount of weed seed or seed of other crop kinds, but indicates what kind the seeds are. Another consideration is the germination of the seed. Have germination tests peformed if you are considering using your own seed, or ask to see the official test results for purity and germination if purchasing seed. These tests are performed by Canada Agriculture's plant products division or by Norwest Seed Research Ltd., Edmonton.

Pedigreed seed is one method of assuring yourself that the seed you purchase meets certain standards. Pedigreed seed must meet standards for varietal purity, weed seed

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Good Seed Month (cont'd)

content, seed of other crop kind content, and germination. However, to know exactly how much better than the minimum standard the seed is, request the germination percentage, and weed kind and quantity of the lot you are considering to purchase.

Good seed does not cost — it pays. Before deciding on the seed you will use this spring, get all the facts on it. Cheap seed may be just that.

Alberta Agriculture's publication, ***Seed for Cereal Crops*** (Agdex FS 110/22-1), gives complete information on seeds and seeding. Copies of the publication are available from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 and Alberta Agriculture's district offices.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRYMEN MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR 1981 ALBERTA BEEF CATTLE AND SHEEP SUPPORT PROGRAM

As the name indicates, the Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program is basically in support of beef cattle and sheep production. However, there are two schedules under which dairymen may qualify.

1. Schedule B – Backgrounding

   To be eligible under this schedule, the cattle must have been –

   a) born, raised and weaned on the property of the applicant during 1980 and then sold as feeders between March 1981 and November 1981.

   or

   b) purchased by the applicant, owned and kept by him in Alberta for at least 120 days and then sold as feeders during the period between December 1, 1980 and November 30, 1981 inclusive.

2. Schedule C – Slaughter Cattle

   Cattle of any breed fed a minimum of 60 days and then sold for slaughter between December 1, 1980 and November 30, 1981, may qualify under the program provided they fit within other guidelines. Mature bulls and cows are excluded unless accompanied by grading slips showing grades A, B or C.

Dairymen who feel they may qualify for assistance under the Alberta Beef Cattle and Sheep Support Program should contact their district agriculturist for full details and application forms.

The deadline for receiving applications is March 31, 1982.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1981 SWINE ROP RESULTS

Results of the 1981 swine record of performance (ROP) program show an improvement in the performance of boars over last year's program.

The ROP program is a joint federal-provincial venture to evaluate live pigs on the basis of their backfat and average daily gain (or age to 90 kg).

Arthur Lange, Alberta Agriculture's assistant supervisor of swine breeding, in announcing the results noted that in the provincial portion of the program, technicians probed 13,979 pigs on 90 farms enrolled on the program in 1981. There were 4,201 boars tested on farms and 9,778 gilts. Average backfat for boars was 14.4 mm and average days to 90 kg was 166. The figures are an improvement over 1980 which were 14.6 and 171 respectively. The performance for the gilts was backfat average of 15.8 mm and 174 days which is virtually no change from 15.7 mm and 174 days in 1980.

Since the present program of evaluating live animals was instituted in 1970, average fat on home tested boars has been reduced significantly from 20.3 mm to 14.4 and age from 178 days to 166. Comparative figures for gilts are backfat from 21.8 to 15.8 mm and age from 187 to 174.

In the federally owned test stations at Lacombe and Leduc, 758 boars were entered in 1981 which is a decrease of 144 animals from 902 entered in 1980. The results of the boars tested show an average backfat of 16.6 mm, average daily gain (ADG) of 0.91 kg and feed conversion of 2.47 kg feed/kg gain. The figures are all favorable responses over the respective 1980 figures which were 17.4 mm, 0.88 ADG and 2.55 feed conversion.

A detailed annual report is currently being printed and will be available for general distribution in a few weeks. Persons wishing to obtain a copy should contact Art Lange at Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch, 8th floor, Energy Square, 10109-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 427-5319.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLDS MICROCOMPUTER FAIR WELL ATTENDED

Over 700 people attended seminars and saw displays of microcomputer hardware, (farm) software and mobile communication equipment at the second annual Farm Business Management Branch Computer Fair. Attendance at the fair, held in late February at Olds College, was more than double last year's attendance. The fair was sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

Workshops at the fair covered topics ranging from an introduction to computers to advanced programming tips on designing, structuring and displaying your own computer program. Predictions were made that by 1990, the majority of farms will be using microcomputers in their operations.

Participants were urged to carefully research both hardware and software before making a computer purchase. One speaker described the importance of the software as being to farm computing as gasoline is to a tractor and then somewhat more because a computer will ask questions like what do you want me to do or how do you want me to do it?

Displays at the fair featured both hardware and software. The hardware on display consisted of most popular brands of microcomputers, many models of mobile radios, a computerized feeding system for livestock, closed circuit T.V., a satellite dish system, and an Alberta Wheat Pool elevator computer.

Software ranged from games to business applications. Software of particular interest to farmers included recordkeeping packages (physical and financial), feedlot management packages, farm planning packages, cashflow programs, VISICALC programs, and home management programs.

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Olds Microcomputer Fair Well Attended (cont'd)

Papers from certain sessions held at the fair are available and can be obtained from the Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO (556-8421).

Plans are being made now to hold a third annual Microcomputer Fair next year.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PROVINCIAL SEED FAIR

The prize winners at Ag-Expo 82, a provincial seed fair co-sponsored by the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce, Lethbridge Exhibition and Alberta Agriculture, have been announced.

The trophy winners and those placing first in each class are as follows:-

Kizema Memorial Trophy

Waterton Seeds Ltd.
Hillspring

Alberta Potato Commission Trophy

P & J Farms
Blackfalds

George Luco Grand Champion Trophy

Jim Miklos
Wrentham

Lethbridge & District Exhibition Trophy

Joanne Hilgerson
Coaldale

Grand Aggregate Prize/
Wheatland Hoppered Bin

Waterton Seeds Ltd.
Hillspring

C.B.C. Radio Trophy for
Junior Classes

Suellen Deurloo
Granum

Pulse Growers Association Trophy

Joe Kusalik
Grassy Lake

Russel Greeno Memorial Trophy

O'Loane & Kieley Co. Ltd.
Lethbridge

Bow Island Corn Marketing
Association Trophy

Barry Fleming
Bow Island

Ag-Expo Award

Bob Span
Lethbridge

Pedigreed Seeds

Hard Red Spring Wheat: Jim Miklos, Wrentham

Pedigreed Hard Red Winter Wheat: Waterton Seeds, Hillspring

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The Provincial Seed Fair (cont'd)

Pedigreed Durum:	Tony Crooymans, Bow Island
Pedigreed 2-Row Barley:	Waterton Seeds, Hillspring
Pedigreed 6-Row Barley:	Jerry Kubik, Lethbridge
Pedigreed Oats:	Charles Ingles, Wetaskiwin
Pedigreed Soft Spring Wheat:	Tony Crooymans, Bow Island
Pedigreed Utility Wheat:	Lloyd Mercer, Lethbridge
Pedigreed Legume Seed:	Dennis Peterson, Tilley

Open Classes

Hard Red Spring Wheat:	Jimmy Miklos, Wrentham
Hard Red Winter Wheat:	Katie Greeno, Lethbridge
Durum Wheat:	Allen Greeno, Lethbridge
Barley – Any Type:	Waterton Seeds, Hillspring
Oats:	Lanark Farm (Raymond McQuid), Vermilion
Rye:	Andy K. Wurz, Carmangay
Mustard – Yellow:	Carl Lowring, Claresholm
Mustard – Other Type:	Katie Greeno, Lethbridge
Soft White Spring Wheat:	Lavern Kurpjuweit, Seven Persons
Utility Wheat:	Lloyd Mercer, Lethbridge
Triticale:	S. Luoma, Trochu
Pedigreed Argentine Canola:	Glen Kvarnberg, Calmar
Pedigreed Polish Canola:	Bankview Farms, Lethbridge
Canola – Argentine Type:	Doug Campbell, Coaldale

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The Provincial Seed Fair (cont'd)

Canola — Polish Type:	Jerry Kubik, Lethbridge
Pedigreed Flax:	Doug Campbell, Coaldale
Flax — Any Type:	Doug Campbell, Coaldale

Protein & Quality Classes

Barley — Any Variety:	Jimmy Miklos, Wrentham
Spring Wheat:	Tony Crooymans, Bow Island
Winter Wheat:	Luco Farms Ltd., Lethbridge

Pulse Classes
(Grain Legumes)

Beans (Dry Field):	Joe Kusalik, Grassy Lake
Fababeans:	Otto Gross, Bow Island
Lentils:	Tony Crooymans, Bow Island
Field Corn:	Barry Fleming, Bow Island
Potatoes — Netted Gem Variety:	P & J Farms, Blackfalds

Hay Classes

Alfalfa Hay:	Joanne Hilgerson, Coaldale
Grass & Legume Hay Mixtures:	Pioneer Ranch, Fort Macleod

Silage Classes

Silage — Corn:	S. Freyman, Lethbridge
Silage — Other Types:	Roy Grisnich Farms, Picture Butte

Junior Seed Classes

Spring Wheat:	Sherri Deurloo, Granum

- (cont'd) -

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The Provincial Seed Fair (cont'd)

Hard Red Winter Wheat:	Sherry Lynn Greeno, Lethbridge
Durum Wheat:	Suellen Deurloo, Granum
Soft White Spring Wheat:	Jerry Walter, Lomond
Utility Wheat:	Jerry Walter, Lomond
Oats:	Lori Ann Deurloo, Granum
Barley:	Sam Hofer, Hillspring
Flax:	Cindy LaValley, Lethbridge
Canola:	Cindy LaValley, Lethbridge
Beans (Dry Field):	Reed Schramm, Grassy Lake

Bread Classes

Basic White Bread:	Vera Mokoske, Lethbridge
Other Types of Bread:	Mary Kuisik, Lethbridge

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIRECTOR – UNITED STATES APPOINTED

Barry D. Mehr, Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of international marketing, has announced the appointment of David C. Rous as international trade director – United States.

David Rous, Alberta Agriculture's recently appointed international trade director – United States

As international trade director for the U.S., Mr. Rous will identify, evaluate, document and follow up on marketing opportunities in the United States for agricultural commodities, processed products and services to increase Alberta's export trade.

Mr. Rous was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and obtained his B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba in 1958. After graduating he worked for Swift Canadian in Winnipeg. In 1965 they moved him to Edmonton where he was responsible for the production and sale of processed meat products. He joined Alberta Agriculture's international marketing group in 1973 with responsibility for the supply of meat, meat products and swine breeding stock for export. He held that position until his appointment in July, 1981 as associate trade director for the U.S. and Pacific/Asia territories.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY FARM PRODUCTION BRANCH HEAD APPOINTED

Fred Hutchings, director of Alberta Agriculture's dairy division, has announced the appointment of Ed Bristow to the position of head of the dairy farm production branch. This newly created branch will be responsible for development, specialized services and introduction of new technology relating to dairy farm management.

Mr. Bristow was born and raised in Alberta and attended Fairview Community College and the University of Alberta. He graduated with a B.Sc. in agriculture, having majored in animal science (dairy).

Following graduation in 1966, he joined the dairy division as assistant supervisor of dairy herd improvement in Edmonton. As regional dairy specialist in the Calgary region from 1972 through 1976, Mr. Bristow's responsibilities included both regulatory and extension duties for production and processing sectors of the industry.

Mr. Bristow was appointed head of the dairy farm inspection branch in 1976, the position he held until the time of his present appointment. His background in all aspects of dairy livestock management and milk quality control has provided him the opportunity to work with government and industry in various capacities, including national committee activities for the Dairy Farmers of Canada and private consulting under contract in South Korea.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONOGASTRIC NUTRITIONIST APPOINTED

Ron Weisenburger, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Sam Jaikaran to the position of monogastric nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. Jaikaran was born and educated in Trinidad. He received his B.Sc. with honours in agriculture from the University of the West Indies. He later graduated from the University of Alberta with a M.Sc. in animal nutrition.

Mr. Jaikaran worked in the Ministry of Agriculture extension services in Trinidad before emigrating to Canada. After graduation from the University of Alberta he was employed by Great West Feeds of Red Deer as a nutritionist.

Mr. Jaikaran will be responsible at the provincial level for monogastric nutrition programs and activities of Alberta Agriculture. He will be the resource person to Alberta producers, Alberta Agriculture staff, the feed manufacturing industry, private veterinarians and other people in agribusiness relating to monogastric nutrition.

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March 22, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESEARCH ANALYST APPOINTED

Ron Weisenburger, acting head of the beef cattle and sheep branch, Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of John Basarab to the position of research analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Basarab was born and educated in Alberta. He received his B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta and later graduated from this institution with a Ph.D. in animal genetics and biochemistry. After graduation, he was employed as a sessional lecturer and research assistant at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Basarab will be acting as a resource for all research and development work within the branch and assisting other branches within the animal industry division as required. He will be responsible for experimental design, data classification, computer input/output, data analyses including biological interpretations, material preparation for scientific and farm-oriented publications and maintaining a close liaison between research institutions and farm organizations for the purpose of technology transfer or requirements.

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AGRI-NEWS

AL/A37/A16/A37/1982-3-29

March 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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March 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FEEDGRAIN OUTLOOK

The outlook for feedgrains at the current time is bleak, participants at Accent 82 heard. "Prices of most world commodities have shown substantial declines as general economic conditions have deteriorated," Peter Love, vice-president of Love Feeds Ltd. and a director of Arctic Grain Ltd., said in his address to the conference.

Accent: Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds, an outlook conference for farmers and agribusiness, was presented in Calgary March 17 and 18 by the market analysis branch of Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. Love, in his address on the domestic feedgrain outlook for 1982, pointed out that price is a function of supply and demand. The supply of feedgrains is a record high, and since demand is a function of economic conditions which are currently poor, demand, too, is poor.

The biggest factor affecting the price of domestic feedgrains, he said, is the price of corn. Since the United States had a record corn crop in 1981 resulting in a huge carryover, the price of barley has been forced down.

Looking to prospects for the 1982-83 crop year, Mr. Love wasn't optimistic. We'll start the crop year with more barley than we did in the current crop year. "Unless planted acreage is reduced or bad weather cuts production, the price next year will have to be reduced," he predicted.

Dr. Richard Anderson, vice-president of Sparks Commodities, Inc. in Memphis Tennessee, wasn't any more optimistic in his address on the international feed grain situation and outlook.

Feedgrain stocks in the world are large and demand is soft, he said, the result being a depressed world feedgrain market. He said he could offer very little encouragement to

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Domestic And International Feedgrain Outlook (cont'd)

those who think that feedgrain prices are going to stage a major, sustained up trend.

There are two factors he feels which are very important to the long term outlook for feedgrain prices: psychology and politics. "Today, the market is dominated by extreme negative, deflation-oriented psychology with the common feeling being one of not wanting future ownership because prices are going to be lower down the road. As long as this psychology prevails, markets have a tendency to struggle to go higher but drop like a rock at the sign of any negative news."

The other influence he cited as having a negative influence was the political uncertainty surrounding the Russia-Poland situation. "Fear of a politically oriented grain embargo has magnified already bearish supply/demand fundamentals," he reported.

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March 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

The large 1981 world and Canadian wheat crops have caused a downward trend in prices, registrants at Accent '82 were told in Calgary.

Also characterizing the Canadian wheat crop was the above normal quality. "Over 80 per cent of the wheat crop graded in the top two grades versus 50 per cent the previous year," Bob Roehle, director of the market analysis division of the Canadian Wheat Board, told approximately 250 people in attendance at the conference.

Accent 82: Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds, an outlook conference for farmers and agribusiness, was presented in Calgary March 17 and 18 by the market analysis branch of Alberta Agriculture.

Mr. Roehle outlined the current Canadian wheat situation and gave an outlook for 1982. Looking to the coming year, he said the price outlook for wheat appears somewhat less pessimistic in 1982 than for coarse grains, so little change is forecast for 1982 acreage. Price outlook is currently not good relative to production costs and the record levels achieved in 1980-81.

"With higher world stocks going into 1982-83, importer demand will have to rise and/or exporter production decline sharply to have a significant price-boosting effect," he said.

Maurice Brannan, a senior economist with Cargill Incorporated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, also referred to the record world crops and weak market prices in his address on the world wheat situation and outlook. "Worldwide economic activity progressed very slowly this past year," he said.

With record 1981 global wheat production, Mr. Brannan indicated, there will be more than ample wheat supplies to meet the expected demand. He said a major factor which

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Wheat Situation And Outlook (cont'd)

is depressing both demand for and price of wheat is the existing high interest rate in our domestic economy. He predicted that with lower rates we could expect to see a modest improvement in the economic opportunity for grain producers and grain handlers.

One of the effects of the banner world wheat crop is a predicted record in global wheat trade. The highest levels of production occurred in the major wheat-exporting countries, while many of the major importing countries had smaller production. The result, says Mr. Brannan, is that global wheat trade during 1981-82 (July/June year) is expected to top 100 million metric tons for the first time.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD WEATHER AND CROP SUMMARY

On balance, the current world grain situation is more beneficial than detrimental, lending a distinctively "bearish" tone to grain markets in North America, a meteorologist told participants at an outlook conference.

Gail Martell, chief meteorologist for E.F. Hutton & Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, gave the participants of Accent 82 a brief overview of weather and crop conditions around the world.

Accent 82: Market Prospects for Grain and Oilseeds, an outlook conference sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch, drew about 250 farmers and agribusiness representatives to Calgary for a two-day session, March 17 and 18.

Ms. Martell took a quick survey of weather conditions around the world and how grain crops will be affected. Starting in Canada, she indicated she did not expect grain production to decline significantly in 1982.

In the U.S., although severe winter weather has tainted the optimistic winter wheat crop outlook somewhat, she still expects production to top the two billion bushel mark which by historic standards is a huge crop.

The Australian grain harvest just completed was the second largest in history and Ms. Martell anticipates their exports will compete heavily with North American grain exports.

Argentina also has good crops in store. If weather co-operates during the final growth stages, Argentine corn production could be the second largest in history, having negative implications for North American feed grain exports.

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World Weather And Crops Summary (cont'd)

Moving her attention further east, Ms. Martell took a look at the Soviet Union's crop prospects. She is optimistic about the outlook for the Soviet's winter grain outlook, but feels the chances for a good spring grain crop are less favorable. "Severe drought last summer has resulted in subsoil moisture deficits," she says. "Above-average precipitation will be needed to alleviate the dryness this spring."

Dry soils are also plaguing China. The 1982 winter wheat crop will need much more rain in the coming weeks to counter the effects of the drought China has been experiencing, she says.

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March 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

In an outlook conference where gloom and doom seemed to be the theme, prospects for canola appeared the brightest. "When all commodities in the world today are showing poor price performance or major price declines, canola is holding more than its own," a marketing manager told those attending Accent 82: Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds.

Nestor Baryliuk, marketing manager for United Oilseed Products at Lloydminster, gave some projections on the Canadian canola situation to 250 farmers and agribusiness people attending the outlook conference in Calgary sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

"Canadian canola is overpriced in relation to world oilseed prices and will eventually come back into line. Canola producers should, therefore, take every advantage of current excellent prices being bid," he advised his listeners.

Though 1981 oilseed prices declined dramatically in most sectors due to a combination of excessive world oilseed supplies and a sagging world economy, he urged canola producers not to be discouraged. He suggested that even if six million acres or three million tonnes (compared to the 1981 Canadian production of 1.8 million tonnes of canola) were grown in 1982, it would not have an adverse affect on canola prices because there are markets for that volume.

In an address on the world oilseed situation and outlook, Dr. T.A. Hieronymus, professor emeritus of agricultural economics at the University of Illinois, also indicated the outlook for oilseed is brighter than for other crops. "The stage is set for a sharp recovery in oilseed prices during 1982-83. Should crop production conditions develop unfavorably, the extent of the rise could be substantial," he predicted.

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March 29, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE – AGRICULTURE'S OMBUDSMAN

It started out as an experiment and in the 10 years since its inception, it has proven a success. The office of the Farmers' Advocate was created as a place "where farmers can go with all their problems and complaints."

Helmut Entrup
Alberta's Farmers' Advocate

The Farmers' Advocate is a civil servant appointed by Order in Council to deal with all problems and complaints of farmers not related to government and its agencies. Any farmer who believes he has suffered an injustice through the actions of another party other than departments, agencies, or officials of the government of Alberta, may bring his complaint to the attention of the Farmers' Advocate. He also investigates and intervenes in any complaints against the federal and municipal governments. The success rate for settling disputes has been high.

At the present time the bulk of inquiries or complaints received by the office are directed towards the oil industry and its related services. This results from the fact that much of the oil and gas exploration and development in the province is occurring on agriculture land. Insurance claims, implement problems, livestock, zoning and consumer purchases are all brought to his attention. Gas Co-ops, Rural Electrification Associations and companies all form part of the inquiries that are made on a day-to-day basis to the office.

The Farmers' Advocate is Helmut Entrup. Bard Haddrell and Rob Feniak are his two assistants and the office has two permanent secretaries. On the average they handle 3,000 complaints or inquiries in a year. In many cases, the farmer phones in, is put on hold, the

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The Farmers' Advocate – Agriculture's Ombudsman (cont'd)

other party to the complaint is contacted, and frequently a settlement is obtained quickly and easily through nothing more than a three-party phone call.

Though in the majority of cases the Farmers' Advocate does obtain satisfaction for farmers, there are those instances when he is unable to rectify the problem. Consequently the farmer has no other alternative than to pursue his complaint through other avenues, which in many cases involves taking it to court. However, since the inception of the office, farmers have been afforded a route that extends a problem-solving service that is free, speedy, and fair in its approach.

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March 29, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAB A BITE THAT'S RIGHT

Grab a bite that's right: that's the theme for Nutrition Month this March — and "grabbing a bite" happens often if your work involves travelling and evening meetings.

However, take heart. You can grab a bite that's right at almost any fast-food place if you know what to choose.

Linda St. Onge, assistant food and nutrition specialist for Alberta Agriculture, has some suggestions. Pizza is one of the most nutritious foods, especially if it includes things like cheese, green pepper, tomato and sausage. Add a carton of milk for a balanced meal.

Submarine sandwiches are another good choice and they're often available in the dairy cases of convenience stores, which are open most of the time. "I grabbed a submarine, yogurt, and magazine at Mac's in High Level once, on my way to wait for the evening plane," comments Ms. St. Onge.

A hamburger, french fries, coleslaw, and milkshake qualify as a balanced meal, though it is high in calories, she says.

If you know you're going to be on the road, bring some things from home. For example some carrot and celery sticks, orange, or a few crackers with cheese will fit into a brief case.

In your car, carry some cans of unsweetened juice, or perhaps U.H.T. milk (which doesn't require refrigeration). A box of crackers, a few slices of cheese and some fresh fruit can sit on the car seat all day without spoiling.

Sometimes when you're travelling, there's no place in town that's open for an early breakfast. Try taking some things along that will keep overnight in a hotel room. Individual-sized canned fruit, fresh fruit, or a can of juice are examples.

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Grab A Bite That's Right (cont'd)

Try individual cereal boxes and a carton of U.H.T. milk. Other suggestions Ms. St. Onge makes are cheese slices and crackers or a bun, or a carton of yogurt.

"Eating on the road might not be haute cuisine — but there are many ways to incorporate nutritious nibbles into even the busiest day," concludes Ms. St. Onge.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAST THE FARM GATE

During times of uncertain economic conditions, it is imperative that grain farmers behave like good businessmen, says John Channon, chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission. He advises farmers never to lose control over the ownership of their grain until they have received full payment for it.

Mr. Channon suggests there are certain things a farmer can do when selling his own grain to make sure nothing untoward happens.

Always pick up your cash tickets as soon as you have completed delivering your grain, preferably on the day of delivery.

Avoid deferred pricing and deferred payment. Take your money immediately and make it work for you at the bank paying up to 14 per cent or so. The interest you make will usually offset the increased price that you anticipate receiving by deferring payment.

When shipping a dealer car or a producer car, make out the railway bill of lading "To Order". Then take the original signed order bill of lading to your bank and attach it to a sight draft that you will draw on the buyer. The buyer cannot take delivery of the grain until he presents the original signed order bill of lading and he can't get the original bill until he pays the bank draft.

In the case of an order bill of lading, the shipper should note on it who is to be advised of the arrival of the car.

If shipping to a terminal elevator to your own account, make sure that your name is on the warehouse receipt.

"Grain production is risky at anytime," Mr. Channon concludes. "It is especially important to keep the risk in grain marketing to a minimum."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL FIRMS RECEIVE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ASSISTANCE

Five rural Alberta firms have accepted offers totalling more than half a million dollars under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

The five projects, located in Lethbridge, Wetaskiwin, Slave Lake, Vermilion and Rocky Mountain House, are expected to generate investment of more than $3 million in new, expanded or modernized nutritive processing facilities.

Canbra Food Ltd. of Lethbridge has accepted an offer of $373,500 to help in the $2.5-million modernization and expansion of its canola crushing and oil refining plant in that city. At Wetaskiwin, Central Alberta Dairy Pool and Faith Farms Ltd. will modernize and expand their cheese processing plant with the help of a $134,600 offer.

Van Hout Bakery Ltd. is using an offer of $19,120 to build a bakery in Slave Lake, and in Vermilion, Eyben Cattle Company (Vermilion) Ltd. will use an offer of $15,464 to help establish a feed mill three miles north of the town.

The fifth firm, Rivendale Farms Ltd., will begin producing oyster mushrooms near Rocky Mountain House and will use an offer of $3,097 to assist with the cost of packaging these mushrooms.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture. Since the agreement began in 1975, nutritive processors in Alberta have received 275 offers of assistance totalling almost $16 million.

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AGRI-NEWS

AL/A37/A16/A37/1982-4-5

CANADIANA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEEF CATTLE TO GO TO KOREA

Fifteen beef heifers will board a 747 in April for a flight to Korea. The heifers, five Angus, five Hereford and five Limousin, are part of a major program being co-ordinated by Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector.

In December, five Charolais and five Simmental heifers made the long trek. Their destination: the National Livestock Experimental Station in Suwon, Korea, where research is underway to establish methods to increase beef production in that country.

Director of the Korean research station, Dr. K.S. Kim, visited Alberta in the summer of 1981 and was impressed by the quality of Alberta cattle and our methods of managing them. Dr. Kim wants to set up a project to show Korean farmers how to better utilize marginal land.

Dr. Kim's plan uses a rotation system to increase the use of rice paddies. Rice is grown in summer, rye planted in the fall and made into silage the next spring, with rice again being planted the next summer. He estimates that a farmer could raise five beef cattle per hectare under this method.

His research will determine which beef breeds are most suited to Korean conditions, as well as the best rye varieties. It is into this scheme that the 25 Alberta heifers fit.

David Clarke, an international trade director for Alberta Agriculture, points out the program could have far-reaching benefits for Alberta trade. Not only are cattle involved, but semen for breeding the heifers has been donated, the Alberta Wheat Pool has donated 250 kilograms of Kodiak rye seed, the Canola Council of Canada in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture has shipped three tonnes of canola meal for use in the research project and the

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Alberta Swine Breeders' Association has donated three gilts and two boars of the Lacombe swine breed.

The research station at Suwon is also an extension station where Korean farmers have an opportunity to see the results. If the research proves Alberta cattle breeds work well, Mr. Clarke foresees a demand for both cattle and semen.

Alberta has already been able to establish a strong agricultural presence in Korea. One of the Korean provinces, Gangweon, is "twinned" with Alberta, a relationship established to further cultural and economic ties between the provinces. In 1979 a demonstration farm was established in Gangweon and Alberta shipped 10 bred heifers and one bull of each of the Simmental, Hereford and Angus breeds to the farm.

Alberta has also sent a livestock specialist, Terry Lee of Lacombe, at least once a year to offer advice to Koreans on cattle management. Mr. Lee is in Korea now visiting all nine Korean provinces, giving a two-day seminar in each. He is visiting Korea under the auspices of the National Livestock Co-operation Federation, a government agency that is the sole importer of cattle for Korea.

The Gangweon farm has proved to be valuable. Mr. Clarke of Alberta Agriculture reports that since 1981, Korea has imported 20,000 head of cattle. Of those, at least, 12,000 were from Canada and 90 per cent of the Canadian animals came from Alberta. "We've shipped 30 planes loaded with cattle," he says.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CHAIRMAN OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION APPOINTED

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced the appointment of Mr. J. Harold Hanna to the position of chairman of the board of directors of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). The appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Hanna, formerly Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister responsible for marketing and economic services, also becomes managing director of the corporation responsible for its day-to-day operation.

"I am pleased to name Mr. Hanna to the post," said Mr. Schmidt, "because he brings to ADC a sound knowledge of agri-business, including food processing and marketing, areas in which ADC might become more active in the future."

Harold Hanna, newly appointed chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation

Mr. Hanna's career has been devoted to agriculture, much of it in the marketing sector. A graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Mr. Hanna was employed with Agriculture Canada before joining Maple Leaf Mills Limited in 1952.

During his 20 years of service to that company, Mr. Hanna rose to the position of Alberta manager of Maple Leaf's master feed division during which time he was located in Calgary. In 1972, Mr. Hanna joined Burns Food Limited as general manager of the Vigor Feed division, and in 1974 he was given added responsibility of general livestock and beef manager for Burns Food's national operation.

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New Chairman Of Agricultural Development Corporation Appointed (cont'd)

In September 1974, Mr. Hanna joined Alberta Agriculture. As assistant deputy minister, he was responsible for expanding markets for Alberta's agricultural and food products, developing and expanding the province's food processing industry, administering various commodity stabilization programs and supervising a wide range of economic services including the department's market information and analysis sections.

In addition to these duties, Mr. Hanna supervised the operation of the lamb processing plant at Innisfail and Alberta's activities under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement. He has also played a key role in creating Alberta's new Food Processing Development Centre which is being built at Leduc.

Married, with two children, Mr. Hanna is a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. He is past president of the Alberta Feed Industry Association, a past national director of the Canadian Feed Manufacturers Association and a past director of the Agricultural Bureau of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Alberta Agriculture Minister, Dallas Schmidt, has announced that nominations are again being accepted for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. The deadline for their acceptance is June 30, 1982.

Albertans who have made important contributions to the development of agriculture in Alberta, Canada or on the international scene, and who hold Canadian citizenship, are eligible for nomination.

"Recognition in the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame is the highest honor Alberta agriculture can bestow on an individual," says Mr. Schmidt.

Service to the agricultural sector is the basic qualification for inclusion in the hall of fame. A life of dedication to the betterment of agriculture has distinguished each person chosen in past years. Professional or voluntary involvement in farming or rural life will be considered by the selection committee if the nominee has made an outstanding contribution in his or her specialty.

The committee will give preference to people associated with the practical aspects of agriculture, including farming and ranching. However, agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered.

Selection of men and women to be named to the hall of fame is made by a committee representing farm men and women.

Nomination forms are available from district extension offices throughout the province and from the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, 10th Floor, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8. The forms are designed to help nominators in presenting background information and supporting evidence as to the candidate's contributions to agriculture.

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Alberta Agriculture Hall Of Fame Nominations (cont'd)

Since its establishment in 1951, the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame has honored 52 men and women for outstanding contributions to farming, ranching and the quality of rural life. Their portraits and a description of their accomplishments can be seen at the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame display, located on the main floor of the provincial museum in Edmonton.

Men and women selected for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1982 will be honored at a banquet and ceremony during Agriculture Week in the latter part of February, 1983.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H MEMBERS SPEAK UP ON RURAL LIFE!

Alberta's nine top 4-H speakers will meet at Calgary's Stampede Park for the Provincial 4-H Finals on April 16. The speakers will express their thoughts on social, economic and interpersonal aspects of rural life in Canada.

These participants have risen through the ranks from their clubs to the finalist level in northern, central and southern Alberta.

"Ranging in age from 14 to 18, these young people exhibit refreshing insight and maturity beyond their years, tempered with a healthy sense of humor," reports Elizabeth Webster, Alberta Agriculture's provincial 4-H personal development specialist. The public is invited to share the experience at 7:30 p.m. in Room B of the Agriculture Building, Calgary Stampede Park.

Sponsored by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Alberta Agriculture, the Provincial Competition is an exciting finale to years of training. "Come join us, won't you?" urges Ms. Webster.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CABBAGES LEFT UNPROTECTED

In trials conducted at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, nine species of common garden plants failed to protect green cabbages against the ravages of the imported cabbage worm and flea beetles. The trials, conducted by Ulf Soehngen, apiculture/entomology specialist at the Research Center and his assistant, Art Tellier, were done to determine the feasibility of using insect repellent companion plantings as a substitute for insecticides in home gardens.

The garden plants, all of which are reported to have some insect repellent characteristics, included tansy, tomato, marigold, nasturtium, nicotiana, spearmint, catnip, pyrethrum, chives and thyme.

In the trial, Mr. Soehngen says, cabbage seedlings were planted between rows of repellent plants, about 22 cm from either row. By mid-summer, many of the repellents had expanded to the point of completely surrounding the cabbages. Nevertheless, feeding damage from the two insect pests was severe, and little difference in the degree of damage to cabbages in the different companion plantings could be seen. In addition to feeding on cabbage, the flea beetles also damaged the leaves of nasturtium and fed on tansy flowers.

Several species of the repellents competed with the crop for water and nutrients, stunting the growth of the cabbages. These trials showed that under local conditions, none of the nine plant species tested were able to protect cabbage from two major pests of cole crops, reports Mr. Soehngen.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUTRITION FORUM ON DIET AND HEART DISEASE

Diet and Heart Disease is the topic for discussion at a nutrition forum being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture district home economists.

Dr. Eldon Smith, professor of medicine and head of the division of cardiology at the University of Calgary will give an overview of cardiovascular disease. Other speakers at the forum will include Helen MacDonald, a nutritionist and instructor for the faculties of nursing and medicine at the University of Calgary, speaking on diet and heart disease, and Brenda Gracie, a dietician at the cardiac rehabilitation program for southern Alberta at the Calgary General Hospital who will outline programs offered at the cardiac rehabilitation unit in the General Hospital.

Controversial aspects of diet and heart disease will be discussed in a panel in the afternoon.

The forum will be held Tuesday, April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Olds College. The general population in the Olds, Airdrie and Three Hills region is invited to attend. For more information and registration forms, contact Alberta agriculture's Three Hills district office at 443-5503.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVING WITH YOUR TEENAGER

Living with your teenager can be challenging. A series of four factsheets recently published by Alberta Agriculture may help in dealing with a teenager.

The factsheets deal with four areas of development which a teenager goes through, and in the process, frequently causes confusion and frustration for his or her family. Understanding Physical Changes, Understanding Changes in Thinking, The Changing Parent-Child Relationship and Understanding Emotional Changes are the topics discussed in the factsheets.

Copies are available from Alberta Agriculture's Print Media Branch, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8 or from Alberta Agriculture's district offices. Ask for the factsheets with their accompanying Homedex No. as follows:-

Living With Your Teenager: The Changing Parent-Child Relationship (No.1911-12-2)

Living With Your Teenager: Understanding Physical Changes (No.1911-12-3)

Living With Your Teenager: Understanding Emotional Changes (No.1911-12-4)

Living With Your Teenager: Understanding Changes in Thinking (No. 1911-12-5)

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE MILEAGE FOR SUEDE AND LEATHER

Suede and leather garments are a popular but expensive item in a wardrobe. With appropriate care, the life of the garment can be extended.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist for Alberta Agriculture, offers the following tips. Prevention is the best "medicine". Wear a scarf or high neckline to protect the leather collar from makeup and hairspray. Avoid attaching jewelry, pins or stick-on name tags to the leather. Pin marks cannot be removed.

Allow leather and suede garments and articles trimmed with these materials to hang where air can circulate freely. Do not hang them in plastic bags, or tightly packed in a warm closet. Suede and leathers must "breathe" to avoid drying out. Prolonged exposure to heat, sun or other strong light causes drying and color fading.

When a garment becomes damp or wet from rain or other causes, hang it to dry at room temperature. Flex the garment often to keep it soft and supple. Brush suede with a soft brush or rubber sponge when dry.

Brushes are available from suede cleaners. Brushing is recommended as general care for suede with special emphasis on the collar, cuff and jacket areas. Suede garments will shed naturally — some more than others. Brushing helps remove excess suede particles.

Never use cleaning agents, soaps, solvents, wire brushes or other abrasives. Discoloration, rings and a "worn" appearance can result. Take the stained garment to a specialist in cleaning suede and leather and notify him of the type of stain.

Professional cleaning services for suede and leather are expensive but it is the only choice to keep your garments looking their best for many years.

For further information, Ms. Eggertson advises contacting your local district home economist.

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April 5, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DIRECTORS NAMED TO HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE BOARD

Three Alberta farmers were recently named directors of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation by Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture. They are Albert Kooy, an irrigation and dairy farmer from Lethbridge; Jim Daines, a grain and livestock producer from Innisfail; and Frank Schwengler, a grain farmer from St. Paul.

The new appointees succeed retiring directors Gordon Sterling of Three Hills, Arthur Hallowes of Sangudo and J.M. McKay of Calgary. Mr. McKay will remain executive secretary to the board.

J.P. Christie of Three Hills was named chairman and Robin Wallace was named vice-chairman. Others on the board are John Langelier of Falher and Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A., from New Norway.

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April 5, 1982

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

1982

Canada Grain Council - Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . April 6 - 7

Alberta Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee Workshop
Black Knight Inn
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . April 27 - 28

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Glenmore Inn
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . April 30 - May 2

University of Alberta Feeder's Day
University Farm
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . June 10

"Agriculture & Energy, Conflict or Compromise"
Alberta Institute of Agrologists
Vegreville, Alberta. . . . . June 11- 12

Advanced Leadership Course — Level III
(Farm Organizations)
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . June 13 - 18

Alberta Pork Congress
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 15 - 17

Alberta Union of REAs
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . June 22 - 23

Breton Plots Field Day and Soils — Crops Clinic
Breton Plots
Breton, Alberta . . . . . July 2

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Hotel Macdonald
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 4 - 9

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
County of Foothills, Alberta. . . . . July 7 - 9

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Canadian Seed Growers' Annual Convention
Regina Inn
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 8 - 10

Agriculture Institute of Canada — Annual Meeting
University of B.C.
Vancouver, B.C . . . . . July 11 - 16

Canadian Society of Extension — Annual Meeting
University of B.C.
Vancouver, B.C . . . . . July 12 - 15

18th Annual Horticultural Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 25 - 30

Alberta-British Columbia Galloway Association — Annual Meeting & Field Day
Imperial Inn
Medicine Hat, Alberta . . . . . July 30 - August 1

World Arabian Horse Organization — Annual Convention
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . August 16 - 20

Women of Unifarm — Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 2 - 3

United Grain Growers Ltd — Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . November 3 - 4

Agricultural Business Management 1
Goldeye Centre
West of Nordegg, Alberta . . . . . November 15 - 17

Fall Fair and Mexabition
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 19 - 23

Agribition and Mexabition
Regina, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 27 - December 3

National Farmers Union National Convention
Bessbourgh Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 29 - December 3

Alberta Polled Hereford Association — Annual Meeting
Capri Centre
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . December 5

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Alberta Cattle Commission — Annual Meeting
Westward Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... December 6 8

1983

Palliser Wheat Growers Association Annual Convention
Westin Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... January 3 - 6

Farm and Home Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... January 10 - 14

Unifarm Annual Convention
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 11 - 14

Alberta Canola Growers Convention
Edmonton, Alberta ..... January 26 - 28

Provincial Service Board Conference
Capri Hotel
Red Deer, Alberta ..... February 6 - 9

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour
Picture Butte, Alberta ..... July 6 - 8

Agricultural Institute of Canada
Truro, Nova Scotia ..... July 10 - 14

AGRI-NEWS

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Here is a brief summary of provincial and federal programs that are designed to encourage energy conservation or to offset increasing energy costs.

As a result of the National Energy Program, fuel prices are expected to increase annually at the rate of 6¢ a litre and to have doubled in five years time. Natural gas prices are also expected to increase over the same period by $1 per mcf (1,000 cubic feet) per year.

Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance

Under this provincial program the price Alberta farmers pay for purple gasoline, purple diesel fuel and purple heating oil for their farming operations will be reduced by 2.5¢ per litre.

Canada Oil Substitution Program

Under this federal program grants up to a maximum of $800 are available to homeowners and businesses to help them to meet the costs of converting their heating systems from oil to natural gas, wood, solar or propane heating.

Rebate on Propane and Fuel Oil

This provincial program is available to farmers who are not serviced by natural gas and in areas where it is not feasible to hook up to a franchised natural gas distribution system. Under it farmers are eligible for a 35 per cent direct rebate on the purchase price of propane and fuel oil. Those who use propane for grain drying or for their irrigation pumps are also eligible for the rebate if natural gas is not available in the volume required or if the units must be portable.

Assistance for Rental or Purchase of Fuel Oil or Propane Tanks

Under this provincial program a tank that was purchased or rented after April 30, 1973, is eligible for a grant in the amount of 40 per cent of the cost of the purchase price up to $250.

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Energy Assistance Programs (cont'd)

Propane Vehicle Grant Program

Under this federal program a grant of up to $400 is available to farmers and commercial fleet operators who purchase a new vehicle which has a propane fuel system or who convert to propane from gasoline. Those who convert diesel powered vehicles to a mixed diesel-propane fuel system are also eligible for the grant.

Federal Excise Tax Refund on Gasoline

Under this federal program farmers can claim a refund of 1.5¢ per litre for gasoline used in their farming operations up to a maximum of $2,400 a year.

Canadian Home Insulation Program

This federal program provides a taxable grant of up to $350 to homeowners and owners of non-profit hostels for insulation materials and one third of the cost of the labor required to install the insulation up to a maximum of $150. In the case of homeowners, it applies only to a principal residence that was built before January 1, 1961.

Enersave

This is a free information service, provided by Energy, Mines and Resources of Canada, to help Canadians to cut down their fuel bills. To find out the details of this service, call the toll-free number 1-800-267-9563.

For details on the programs listed above and eligibility requirements, or for information on almost 40 other financial assistance programs, ask your district agriculturist for a copy of "Assistance Available to Alberta Farmers" (Agdex No.871), which has been compiled by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. It is also available from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO and from the Print Media Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE 1982 STATUS OF 2,4-D

Developments over the last year within Agriculture Canada and conflicting reports of these developments by the news media have left Canadian farmers totally confused regarding the status of 2,4-D. It appears that many believe that all commercial 2,4-D products have been, or will be, banned.

Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues coordinator with Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division, says that the use of the high volatile butyl esters of 2,4-D will cease when existing stocks have been used up. He points out that their use began to be phased out in January of 1981 because studies had shown that they evaporate rapidly and produce a significant vapor drift. This drift can damage sensitive, non-target crops.

Dr. Hussain also says that there is no ban on the use of the low volatile esters and amines of 2,4-D in 1982. However, all products that are manufactured from now on cannot contain more than one-hundredth of a milligram of dioxins per kilogram of 2,4-D active ingredient. Analyses carried out by Agriculture Canada show that four companies have been able to meet this dioxin requirement in their production. They are Diamond Shamrock, Dow Chemical, A.H. Marks and Co. and Uniroyal Chemical. Stocks of low volatile esters and amines of 2,4-D that were manufactured before the new regulation can be used until the supply is used up.

Dr. Hussain points out that a recent report from the National Research Council of Canada has identified 75 different types of dioxins in the environment which are produced by such things as burning wood, burning fossil fuels and burning cigarettes. He also points out

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The 1982 Status Of 2,4-D (cont'd)

that the dioxins found in 2,4-D are 50 to 150 thousand times less dangerous than the most toxic environmental dioxin, which is called TCDD, and that the dioxins in 2,4-D are produced when the reaction temperature is increased above normal during the manufacturing process. He says if the temperature is properly controlled, the dioxin level in 2,4-D can be considerably reduced and even eliminated.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A FANTASTIC DEAL IN HERBICIDES?

Have you been offered a "fantastic" deal this spring on a "wonder" herbicide?

A number of salesmen have apparently been telephoning farmers in Western Canada from Toronto and Montreal, and even from New York City, and telling them about a fantastic deal on a "wonder" herbicide. According to Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch, the deal is far from fantastic in the positive sense and the trade name of the "wonder" herbicide is Total. It has been registered by Ford Chemicals of Mississauga, Ontario, and its registration number under the federal Pest Control Products Act is 16647. Ford Chemicals is not necessarily promoting Total, but so far it has been impossible to obtain the name of the promoter.

Mr. Stearman says that Total's registration states that the product contains 3.12 per cent atrazine. Hence, 10 gallons of Total would contain just over three pounds of atrazine, which is worth only $10 or $12. However, Total is being sold for $42 per gallon, which means that 10 gallons would cost $420 — some deal!

Total is evidentally not the only herbicide being offered by telephone to potential users, and Mr. Stearman strongly urges people who use herbicides to buy them only from a reputable local firm.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN ALFALFA SEED SITUATION

If you intend to plant alfalfa this spring you are in luck! Seed prices are lower than they have been for sometime and the supply of seed for the main varieties is excellent.

Marcel Maisonneuve, chairman of the Alberta Forage Seed Council, says that for the first time in recent years the domestic market is more closely tied to Canadian production and to the Canadian seed carryover than to the U.S. market. Although grower prices vary from one variety to another, prices for the popular varieties fell last year to $2.05 per kg from about $3.05 per kg on a net seed basis before processing. The decline was the result of larger than normal alfalfa seed supplies and a lower than normal demand last spring and summer.

Preliminary production prospects placed the 1981 alfalfa seed crop at 3.3 million kg, which was 80 per cent larger than the 1980 crop and much larger than the previous five-year average. And recent estimates suggest that it may be even bigger. The 1981 production coupled with a carryover of 2 million kg at the beginning of July 1981 would bring total supplies available in the 1981-82 crop year to 5.3 million kg.

After reaching 3.2 million kg in 1979-80, Canadian imports dropped by about one million kg in the 1980-81 crop year, and they are expected to drop again in the coming crop year, according to Mr. Maisonneuve.

He believes that the expansion in alfalfa seed production in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba during the past two years will provide greater stability in the Canadian alfalfa seed market in the future. There was a considerable increase in Western Canada's alfalfa seed production last year when about 24,000 acres were inspected for foundation or certified

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Canadian Alfalfa Seed Situation (cont'd)

status. This figure represents a 50 per cent increase over the 1980 acreage and a two-fold increase over the 1979 acreage. Only 5,000 acres were inspected in 1976. Mr. Maisonneuve says the dramatic increase in alfalfa seed production over the past six years is the result of higher prices and the availability of leaf cutter bees.

He also says that public varieties still make up 65 per cent of the alfalfa seed acreage in Western Canada, but that private varieties are accounting for a greater share of production and markets each year.

According to Mr. Maisonneuve, Algonquin, a medium cut alfalfa variety, has been the most popular variety grown for seed in Western Canada during the last two years. It has the unique distinction of being a Canadian public variety that is recommended for use in both Western and Eastern Canada. Acreages planted to Beaver, Rambler and Angus are also continuing to increase in size. And an expansion in the acreage of private varieties is taking place among the Flemish or early recovery types of alfalfa like Thor. Mr. Maisonneuve says we can expect this expansion to continue as more seed producers enter the industry and look to contract seed production as a means of providing sales security.

He expects lower retail prices and a good supply of the popular alfalfa seed varieties to increase the use of alfalfa seed this spring and to bring down carryover stocks. However, he points out that the demand for alfalfa varieties will become more specific in the future and that seed growers will have to evaluate alternative varieties before committing all their resources to any one.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FEED SITUATION

Last winter was both good and bad for livestock producers, according to Marilyn Johnson of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

While the heavy snowfall provided excellent cover for legumes and will provide much needed soil moisture throughout most of the northern and northeastern areas of the province, it, combined with colder than normal temperatures, meant larger than normal feed requirements for livestock.

Although livestock producers in the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat region experienced heavier feeding than normal last winter because of the cold weather, they still have ample feed reserves.

In the Calgary-Hanna region, the feed situation is very good compared with areas north of this region and a lot of hay and straw are moving from here into feed deficient areas.

Feed supplies in the Red Deer-Wetaskiwin region vary from shortages in eastern districts to surpluses in western districts. However, hay is moving out of this region to areas located north and northeast.

The cold weather that has prevailed since Christmas has resulted in heavier than normal feed consumption throughout the Vermilion-St. Paul region and all areas are experiencing hay and greenfeed shortages. However, the supply of feed grain is generally adequate.

While most of the Edmonton-Barrhead region reports adequate feed supplies, the northeastern areas around Barrhead and Athabasca are experiencing forage shortages. However, feed grain supplies are generally adequate except in the Edson area where the supply of feed barley and oats is poor.

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Alberta Feed Situation (cont'd)

Hay, greenfeed and straw shortages in the Fairview-Grande Prairie and Peace River regions have resulted in a larger than normal amount of feed being hauled into the region under the provincial Feed Freight Assistance Program. However, in general there is enough feed grain in the region, except around Falher where there is a poor supply of feed oats.

Ms. Johnson points out that as spring approaches an additional strain is being placed on feed supplies where livestock producers want to allow their pastures to recover before putting cattle on them. However, she believes that feed supplies should meet most needs throughout the province, but that there will be a limited forage carryover and a shortage in some areas.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECONOMICS OF FEED STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

If you are having trouble deciding upon a feed storage and distribution system for your farm or feedlot, you should be able to get some help from a new publication compiled by Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch and entitled "Economics of Feed Storage and Distribution Systems for Feeding Cattle".

The publication reviews available feed storage and distribution methods and related equipment and provides information designed to help cattlemen choose a system suited to their particular situation. It is also designed to be a guide for comparative economic evaluations of feed storage and distribution systems used in beef feedlots.

It is divided into five main sections. Section I outlines some of the important factors that affect the choice of a feed storage and distribution system and reviews the methods used for determining the costs associated with the systems that are analysed.

Section II discusses the alternative storage facilities that are available for feed grains and forages that have been field-dried piror to storage.

Section III covers the methods of storing feed that has a high moisture content, and, hence, requires special handling to avoid excessive spoilage.

Section IV outlines alternative methods of getting feed from the storage facility to the animals in the feedlot.

Section V compares the costs of several alternative storage and distribution systems for various feedlot sizes.

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Economics Of Feed Storage And Distribution Systems (cont'd)

Although the main emphasis of this publication is on the analysis of alternative feed storage and distribution systems for feeder cattle, people involved in choosing feed storage and distribution systems for other types of livestock will find a considerable amount of useful information.

Copies of "Economics of Field Storage and Distribution Systems for Feeding Cattle" (Agdex 400/827-1) can be obtained from the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H RECOGNITION AWARD

Applications are now being accepted by Alberta Agriculture for the annual Alberta 4-H Recognition Award, which is designed to honor people who have made an outstanding contribution to 4-H and to recognize leadership ability. Anyone who has been involved with 4-H in Alberta for at least 15 years is eligible.

The recipient of the 4-H Recognition Award will be selected by a committee consisting of an Alberta Agriculture staff member, an Alberta 4-H Council member and a previous winner. He or she will be honored during the annual Alberta 4-H Leaders' Conference.

Nominations will be accepted until July 15, 1982, and nomination forms can be obtained from regional 4-H specialists and district home economists. They should be completed carefully and signed by three nominators.

Further information can be obtained from Ted Youck, 4-H Branch, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED TO WAINWRIGHT

John G. Calpas, director of extension and Ralph Berkan, regional director for Alberta Agriculture, have announced the appointment of Brian Wilson to the position of senior district agriculturist at Wainwright. His appointment fills the vacancy left by Arvid Aassen who took a leave of absence to work on a CIDA project in Lesotho, Africa.

As senior district agriculturist at Wainwright, Mr. Wilson will be responsible for supervising staff and for co-ordinating agricultural programs for the Wainwright, Provost and Ryley offices.

He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1978, having specialized in animal science. He took his initial training in the Valleyview office and was appointed district agriculturist for the Rimbey office in September 1979. He worked there until his present appointment.

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April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

Don Young, assistant director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointments of the following district agriculturists.

Fred Young

Mr. Young has been appointed district agriculturist at Evansburg where he succeeds Don Glover who resigned recently to take a position with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Young is a native Albertan and obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from the University of Alberta in 1981. He has been training in the Athabasca district office with senior district agriculturist Gary Berger. During the summer of 1980, Mr. Young worked as a summer assistant district agriculturist in the Evansburg office where he has a good knowledge of the area and its people.

Peter Funk

Mr. Funk has been appointed district agriculturist at Red Deer. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1959 with a B.S.A. He has worked as a district agriculturist in Rocky Mountain House and more recently at Innisfail where he established the district agriculturist office.

Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture, Mr. Funk was employed as a farm management consultant at Rocky Mountain House.

Ted Darling

Mr. Darling has been appointed district agriculturist at Innisfail. He is a native of the Penhold district and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1968 with a B.Sc. (agriculture), having majored in agricultural engineering. He has recently been working with Jerry Jones at the Vegreville district office.

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Five District Agriculturists Appointed (cont'd)

Prior to this, Mr. Darling spent some time sailing his 28-foot boat in the Pacific, Caribbean and Atlantic Oceans. He has also worked as district agriculturist in the Ponoka and Red Deer offices. After graduating from university, he spent two years working with the John Deere Company before joining Alberta Agriculture.

Gordon Bacon

Mr. Bacon has been appointed district agriculturist at Rimbey where he succeeds Brian Wilson who has been promoted to the position of senior district agriculturist at Wainwright.

Mr. Bacon is a native of Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.S.A. in 1981. He has been training in the Wetaskiwin office with senior district agriculturist Hector Goudreau. Last summer Mr. Bacon worked with the Canadian Wheat Board in Winnipeg, and while at university he was employed by Velsicol Corporation of Canada where he set out and evaluated test plots.

Brad Hansen

Mr. Hansen has been appointed district agriculturist at Coronation where he replaces Dave Plett who was transferred to High River in January 1982.

Mr. Hansen comes from Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1981 with a B.S.A., having majored in agronomy. He has been training in the High River district office with Dave Plett and Dave Zukerman. While at university, Mr. Hansen worked for the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration on water development and surveying projects.

April 12, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED TO THORHILD

Lorraine Fagnou has been appointed district home economist at Thorhild. Her appointment was announced by Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

Ms. Fagnou was born and raised on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and attended the University of Saskatchewan. She graduated in 1980 with a B.Sc. (home economics).

She spent the summer of 1978 as a camp counsellor for the Saskatchewan Council for Crippled Children and Adults. The following summer she was involved in ethnic and cultural costume research for the College of Home Economics in Saskatchewan.

Ms. Fagnou joined Alberta Agriculture's extension division in the summer of 1980 and took her district home economist training at Warner. She was appointed district home economist at Sangudo in December 1980 and remained there until her present appointment.

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AGRI-NEWS

April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
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COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL CRITICIZES PESTICIDE SYSTEM

The Canadian Environmental Advisory Council (CEAC), in a recent report to the federal minister of the Environment, John Roberts, calls for a complete reorganization of the current pesticide registration body to ensure that the ministry has a more prominent role in the evaluation of pesticides.

Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide issues co-ordinator for Alberta Agriculture, in commenting on the report written by Dr. Ross H. Hall of McMaster University, Ontario, notes that the council recommends a substantial increase in the number of environmental tests which a pesticide must undergo. The idea here is that very few pesticides would make it through the full gamut of tests to final registration.

The council would also like to see pesticides developed in Canada and tested under Canadian environmental conditions rather than under U.S. conditions. However, Dr. Hussain points out that Canada does not have the specific manufacturing knowledge and toxicological facilities required to develop pesticides for its own specific use. He adds that Agriculture Canada and the Canadian Forestry Service have research stations throughout the country, and that their primary function is to test pesticides for efficacy, environmental persistence and effects on certain wildlife species under provincial environmental conditions.

The CEAC suggests that integrated and biological pest control be implemented to cut back on the use of chemical pesticides. However, as Dr. Hussain indicates, the report concedes that these types of control have several problems such as a farmer's lack of knowledge of insect biology, difficulty in getting an imported predator to become accustomed to the various Canadian conditions, careful monitoring of predator and pest populations, etc.

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Environmental Council Criticizes Pesticide System (cont'd)

The council recommends that the pesticide registration act (Pest Control Products Act) be transferred from Agriculture Canada, which presently administers it, to Environment Canada so that, in the pesticide evaluation process, more emphasis would be given to the environment rather than to food production. However, Dr. Hussain notes that the council feels Environment Canada has been negligent in its role in the evaluation of pesticides, and thus has failed to reflect public concern over environment quality. He says the report stops short of calling Environment Canada incompetent and concedes that moving the act to this ministry may not lessen the number of pesticides currently being registered. Dr. Hussain comments that the report does not recommend transferring the act to Health and Welfare Canada for greater emphasis on human health concerns.

Finally, the council suggests the establishment of a pest control evaluation commission to replace the present pesticide registration body. According to Dr. Hussain, the commission would focus on pest problems in the agricultural and forestry sectors and not on the household sector which uses a large proportion of chemical pesticides and where the hazard to human health may be greater. Nevertheless, the overall objective of the commission would be to minimize the environmental impact of pesticides so that environmental quality and human life would be enhanced.

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April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANCELLATION OF ADC'S DAIRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

In recent months milk and cream production, as well as the demand for fluid milk and other dairy products, has changed considerably. Alberta milk production has now reached the point where the province's market share quota may be exceeded, and further production increases are not in the best interest of producers at this time.

To protect the viability of existing milk producers, Mr. J.H. Hanna, Chairman and Managing Director of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, has announced that ADC's Dairy Development Program will be cancelled as of April 30, 1982 in respect of new entries to the program. The Dairy Development Program was introduced some years ago to encourage increased milk production. Its stated purpose has been achieved.

As of May 1, 1982 no new projects will be accepted under the Dairy Development Program. Payment of incentives on approved applications will continue to be paid in the normal manner until they expire.

Mr. Hanna said that should it become necessary to stimulate milk production again at some point in the future, another program could be considered at that time.

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April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION ON AIR SEEDERS

Are you planning to buy a new seeder this spring? Are you considering an air seeder?

According to Ed Wiens of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, air seeders have both advantages and disadvantages compared with conventional seeders. Their disadvantages include a high initial cost, poor cultivator visibility, a cluttered arrangement of hoses on the cultivator, slightly reduced seed placement accuracy and somewhat reduced seed distribution uniformity.

Among the advantages of an air seeder are: it is a wide machine that is easily transported; it provides a large, centrally-located, easily-filled tank; it has a high working rate, it has good rock and trash clearance; it has multiple uses and little or no seedbed preparation is required. In addition to seeding, this machine can be used for summerfallowing and fertilizer banding.

Because of the lack of information on air seeders, the agricultural machinery institute undertook to test the Prasco, the Friggstad and the Wil-Rich air seeders in 1980, and in 1981 they tested the Flexi-Coil, the Morris and the John Deere. The test reports on the last three have just been released, and they contain useful information on such air seeder performance as metering accuracy, seed distribution uniformity, seed placement accuracy, fertilizer banding capability, work rates, power requirements, ease of operation, ease of adjustment, etc.

If you farm in Alberta and would like to get information on air seeders, you should contact the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, c/o LCC Campus, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 (Telephone: 329-1212).

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April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDERS' DAY RETURNS TO THE UNIVERSITY FARM

This year the University of Alberta Feeders' Day, which is scheduled for June 10, will be held at the University Farm to mark the university's 75th anniversary.

The first Feeders' Day was held at the University Farm in 1922 when the results of 10 experiments on feeding and managing swine, sheep and steers were reported. The farm was the site of the next 53 Feeders' Days. Since then they have been presented at various locations throughout the province in an attempt to take them to the more rural settings. Last year Feeders' Day was held at Olds.

Feeders' Day is designed to provide livestock producers with an opportunity to become familiar with recent research findings and to convey their concerns to researchers. The 1982 Feeders' Day will again consist of presentations on livestock production research that has been carried out by the university's Department of Animal Science.

All livestock producers are invited to attend this year's program, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 10 at the University Farm (116 Street and 68 Avenue in Edmonton). The chairman of the Department of Animal Science, Dr. R.T. Berg, is particularly anxious that all former students attend, and that they share in the special 75th anniversary celebrations that are planned for the occasion.

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April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP ON SOLAR TECHNOLOGY

If you are interested in solar technology here is your chance! The University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science is holding a free symposium and workshop on solar technology on April 30 and May 1.

The symposium agenda will include the following topics.

. Passive Solar Homes by Dr. H. Davidson, Agrometeorologist, Agriculture Canada, Swift Current.

. Solar Greenhouses by M. Kerfoot, Energy Consultant with Sunergy Systems, Carstairs.

. Farm Energy Conservation by Edwin Thornton, Energy Engineer, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton.

. Solar Grain Drying by Dr. H. Davidson (as above).

Those who participate in the workshop on May 1 will take part in constructing two small solar collectors under the direction of Mr. Kerfoot and a large collector panel under the supervision of Dr. Davidson.

Dr. Ann Clark, who has organized the program, says the Northern Alberta Chapter of the Solar Energy Society of Canada is accepting registrations by telephone at 439-6466. She would appreciate knowing whether you are interested in attending one or both days of the program. Registration by April 26th would be appreciated so that meals can be arranged for the symposium (April 30) and other arrangements can be made. Meal Tickets are $5 each. Those who plan to attend the workshop (May 1) are asked to bring their own meal, but beverages will be provided.

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Symposium And Workshop On Solar Technology (cont'd)

The program will start on both days at 9 a.m. The symposium will be held in Room 1-13 of the Agriculture and Forestry Center at the University of Alberta and the workshop will be held in Building F-52 of the Edmonton Research Station at the University of Alberta.

You can obtain further information on the symposium and workshop from Dr. E. Ann Clark at 432-3869 or Dr. D. D'Alquen at 432-3538.

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April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNOW MOLDS ON TURF

As the snow melts, you may find your lawn covered with a fine, fluffy white or pink growth that sometimes turns bluish-grey or almost black.

According to Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, this growth is caused by snow molds, which in turn, are caused by fungi. He says circular brown patches, a foot or more in diameter, may subsequently appear on an infected lawn, and that these patches may gradually merge to form large, irregular brown areas.

Dr. Howard also says that shaded areas where the snow melts slowly and wet areas are often problem spots on lawns and on golf fairways and greens. The grass may be injured while it is still under the snow or it may be injured during a cold drizzly period after the snow has melted. Apparently, damage most frequently occurs on a lawn in foot prints and on a golf course along vehicle tracks, ski tracks and foot paths. As a general rule, snow mold fungi cease to attack grass when its surface has dried out, but the infection may reappear in the same places year after year.

Dr. Howard reports that there are a number of fungal species that cause snow molds in Alberta, and that their distribution usually follows specific geographical patterns. However, the species are difficult to distinguish from each other by visual observation alone, and they are not infrequently found in combination with each other on damaged turf.

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Snow Molds On Turf (cont'd)

Sclerotinia snow mold is common in the northern region of the province, while fusarium patch or pink snow mold tends to occur further south. Grey snow mold and cottony snow mold are common in central Alberta, but may also occur in northern and southern areas.

The symptoms, predisposing factors and control measures for snow molds are described in the Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Major Diseases of Turf Grasses in Western Canada" (Agdex 273/636-3) by J.D. Smith. Copies can be obtained from district agriculturists and the Print Media Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELECTING SEED POTATOES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center's regional crop laboratory in Brooks receives a large number of samples of home garden potatoes every year with diseases that can be traced back to the seed that was used.

Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist at the center, says that many of these diseases could be avoided if home gardeners would plant good quality seed. He also points out that potatoes are susceptible to more than 100 noninfectious and infectious diseases, many of which are transmitted by the potato itself.

Following are some guidelines, submitted by Dr. Howard, to help you to select good seed potatoes this year.

. Variety — Choose a variety that suits your situation. Varieties differ in the length of growing season they require to mature. Gardeners in the cooler areas of the province where the growing season is shorter than in others places may have poor success with such long-season varieties as netted gems. Potatoes also differ in their cooking quality and storability, and varieties that are grown in an unsuitable environment are not likely to produce well. They may succumb to a variety of diseases because they are under stress. You can get more information on potato varieties that are suitable for growing in Alberta from Alberta Agriculture's Garden-Fax factsheet entitled "Potatoes for Home Gardeners" (Agdex 258/20-4).

. Pedigreed Seed — Plant pedigreed seed whenever possible. In Alberta such seed is government inspected and appropriately tagged "Certified" or "Foundation" Seed. This inspection will ensure that the seed you buy is of high quality and that it is relatively free from disease. Do not plant commercial table potatoes that you buy from a grocery store because they have not been inspected for seed certification, and they may have been chemically treated to inhibit sprouting, in which case they will not grow. It is generally better to

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Selecting Seed Potatoes For The Home Garden (cont'd)

plant pedigreed seed than to use your own potatoes for seed because there are a number of infectious diseases that can build up in potato stock that is used for seed year after year.

. Visual Appearance — You cannot be sure whether or not potatoes will make good seed just by looking at them. However, certain tuber-borne diseases like scab, dry rot, silver scurf and cracking and bruising will be evident, and such potatoes should not be used for seed. Internal symptoms of diseases like leaf roll, wilt and bacterial ring rot will also be evident in potatoes that are cut for seed. Again, they should not be used.

. Whole Versus Cut Seed — You can plant either freshly cut seed potatoes or cut seed potatoes that have healed over properly before they are planted. Such seed can be just as productive as whole seed. If you use cut seed be sure to disinfect your cutting knife frequently. You can do this by dipping it in a solution of quaternary ammonia (1 pint Potato Gard or Hy-X in 20 gal water), a household bleach solution (1 part 5 - 6% bleach to 9 parts water) or formaldehyde (1 part 37% formaldehyde to 20 parts water).

. Green Sprouting — You can sometimes overcome the problem of seed piece decay that can occur when potatoes are planted in cold soil by "green-sprouting" the seed. You can do this by exposing whole tubers or tuber pieces to light for one to three weeks. During this period short, thick, green sprouts will form which are more resistant than unsprouted seed to an attack by *Rhizoctonia solani*, which causes Rhizoctonia canker. Still another benefit of "green-sprouting" is that you get an even stand of vigorous potato plants soon after they have been planted.

April 19, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENOVATING OLDER SHELTERBELTS

Because of stresses such as drought, winter injury, pests and diseases, strong winds, animal and mechanical damage and general neglect that take their toll of trees as they begin to age, many older shelterbelts would benefit greatly from renovation.

Herman Oosterhuis, in charge of Alberta Agriculture's Shelterbelt Program, says symptoms of stress in trees include such things as reduced height, dead tops and/or branches, cankers, undersized leaves, poor branch structure and reduced trunk and branch diameters. When the stress is sudden or prolonged, the trees may die.

Some types of environmental stress and injury from certain infectious diseases and insects are most apparent in the spring after the leaves are out. Since dead branches stand out during this period, the spring is a good time to begin a renovation program. Renovation work can also be done in the late fall and during mild spells in the winter.

According to Mr. Oosterhuis, there are three methods of shelterbelt renovation. They are: thinning, pruning and pollarding. The decision as to which method to use will depend upon the type of trees involved, their spacing both in the row and between rows, and their overall health.

Thinning

Thinning is the best method for rejuvenating an overcrowded shelterbelt. It will increase the growing space so that the remaining trees can obtain more moisture and expand their crowns.

The danger of overcrowding is less pronounced in a single-row shelterbelt because the roots of these trees can use the fringe areas on either side of the shelterbelt. However, when spruce are planted at 1.5 to 2 metres apart, you should remove every second tree.

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Renovating Older Shelterbelts (cont'd)

Thinning can be done in multiple-row shelterbelts by completely removing one or more rows of trees or by the systematic removal of portions of the trees in one or more rows (i.e. multiple-trunk trees like Manitoba maples and willows). However, the removal of entire rows is the simplest and probably the most frequently used method.

Pruning

In a shelterbelt, pruning usually involves removing the dead or diseased parts of a tree. Living branches should only be removed during the time that a tree is dormant, but dead wood can be pruned at any time of the year.

To remove a small broken branch, cut the broken part back flush with the larger branch — never leave the stub of a broken branch on a tree. When removing a large branch, you should make the first cut so that you remove most of the length of the branch. Then remove the stump by cutting it flush with the trunk of the tree. And, remember, that a large wound should always be covered with a wound dressing to prevent the tree from being attacked by insects and wound parasite fungi.

To repair the broken top of an evergreen, force a new branch into the position of the lost leader. It will take over the function of leader.

If you want to improve the aesthetic value of your shelterbelt by pruning, Mr. Oosterhuis recommends that you limit your pruning to the removal of large, wide-spreading branches and to correcting the shape of the trees so that they will develop into well-balanced single or multiple-trunk structures. Do not remove the lower branches of shelterbelt trees because they protect the shelterbelt.

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Renovating Older Shelterbelts (cont'd)

Pollarding

This is a way of severely pruning older trees and is usually practiced on fast-growing species like poplars and willows. The branches of the crown are cut back to the old wood, and the trees react by producing an abundance of new shoots which develop into branches.

Pollarding is often done around farmsteads to control the growth of large poplars, especially under power lines. Since the large cuts that result are not usually covered with a protective dressing, the wounds do not heal over and decay frequently causes a lasting injury Consequently, not only is the natural beauty of the shelterbelt destroyed but the life span of the trees is also reduced. For these reasons pollarding is not recommended unless it is absolutely necessary.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TWO GENERATION FARMING FAMILY

by Nadine Vester
Family Living Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

Can a two generation farming family find happiness living on the same quarter section?

You know the old saying about the road that is paved with good intentions? In no family situation is this given more validity than in the two generation farming family. Most parents have some difficulty in allowing their children to make mistakes and, in the process, grow up to be responsible citizens. When the growing up (at whatever age) involves dealing with high priced machinery, crops from which there is little profit and high priced land, it is easy to see why the parents in a two generation farming family are even more motivated to see that their children do not make mistakes.

However, all of nature demands that the young grow to adulthood, create their own families, age and die. Human beings, because of the complex skills they must master, have a prolonged childhood. And part of the learning that takes place during that childhood must come from experience — and from mistakes.

Many writers on the subject of human development and human stress say that one of the sources of stress in a family is the blocking of the drive to independence in the young — i.e. parents, in effect, not letting their children grow up. The stress stems from the child's need to proceed through the stages of development at an orderly pace. Stress also results from damage to the individual's self esteem. If he is judged incapable then he feels less worthwhile. In fact, if he is judged incapable, he becomes incapable. Families originate this stress but not, we suspect, on purpose.

Let us examine some of the reasons it is difficult for farm parents to let go of the reins and to allow their children to become independent adults. First, there are the costs of the mistakes. All farmers could give us examples. It would be easier to let the young person learn on someone else's expensive machinery. Secondly, it is difficult for all of us to hand over

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The Two Generation Farming Family (cont'd)

a job which was originally ours. And it is doubly difficult for farm people to hand over their farm. Their everyday activities have been centred around that operation. Not only their choice of occupation is intimately involved, but also their place of residence, their leisure activities and, in effect, all their waking moments. Think of the losses and the changes that parents must go through in order to retire from a farming occupation. They have to reorganize their whole life; not just part of it as is the case with other retirees.

In addition, the older generation has a large financial investment in the situation — a whole life of striving! If they are handing over the farm by stages to their children, then they have a financial stake in whether or not the children make a profit and are able to keep up their payments. Since parents care intensely about their children, they also have an emotional stake.

The friction between the two generations of a farming family can be alleviated by their sitting down and trying to put themselves in the other generation's place. This means trying to see what it is the other generation must accomplish in order to make the transition, trying to see what each gains, and also what each loses. There is no place more appropriate for straight and plain speaking or for active listening.

For some ideas that will help you to deal with the issue mentioned in this article write for "The Two Generation Farming Family: Payoff Pain or Pleasure?". It was written for the Alberta Rural Development Studies which are produced by the Rural Education and Development Association.

"The Two Generation Farming Family: Playoff Pain or Pleasure?" and a series of other papers of interest to farm families can be obtained for a nominal fee from the Rural Education and Development Association, 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9. And a brochure which contains the titles of the papers in this series can be obtained from your district home economist or your district agriculturist.

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN

April 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECTS APPROVED

By the end of the 1982-83 fiscal year, the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund will have spent just over $15 million under Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future Research Program to augment and complement agricultural research programs that are being carried out by universities, federal and provincial institutions and private agencies.

The Farming for the Future Research Program is designed to help improve the long-term viability of Alberta's agricultural industry and to help improve net farm incomes in the province. It is administered by the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta which operates under the chairmanship of the minister of agriculture. The deputy minister of agriculture is the vice-chairman, and the members, who are appointed by the minister, include a representative of the Legislative Assembly, representatives from various sectors of the research community and farmers from across Alberta.

Dr. Yilma Tecklemariam, research coordinator with Alberta Agriculture's research and operations sector reports that the council has approved 145 projects for the present fiscal year, 103 of which are on-going and 42 of which are new, for a total cost of $5.7 million. The new projects are expected to account for 1.4 million, and an additional $300,000 is to be spent on an On-Farm Demonstration Program. It is designed to get farmers involved in the demonstration of new technology. According to Dr. Tecklemariam, a further $200,000 could be approved for other projects that meet special conditions.

In 1981-82 a total of 106 projects were carried out under Farming for the Future at a cost of approximately $4.08 million. The average cost of these projects was $38,000 compared with $40,000 for this year's projects.

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More Agricultural Research Projects Approved (cont'd)

The 1982-83 projects are in such areas as apiculture and entomology, cereals and oilseeds, forages, irrigation, land use and soils, ruminants, non-ruminants, processing, transportation and marketing, and special crops. Dr. Tecklemariam says ruminant research has received a higher priority this year than previously and that the next highest priority appears to be cereal and oilseed research. Irrigation research will be undertaken this year for the first time with five irrigation projects having been approved.

Dr. Tecklemariam expects 17 of the on-going projects to be completed this year. He says another 12 are in the final stage and should be completed within the next 18 months. He also says that as projects are completed, the results will be made available to farmers through the appropriate publications. Individuals who are interested in a particular project will be able to obtain additional information on it from the Research and Operations Sector, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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April 26, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANCELLATION OF FOUR PESTICIDE REGISTRATIONS CALLED FOR

Dr. Moe Hussain
Alberta Agriculture

In a recommendation to the federal minister of agriculture, Eugene Whelan, Health and Welfare Canada has called for the cancellation until further notice of the registrations of four pesticides and for a halt in new registrations for 49 others.

The Health and Welfare Canada recommendation is the result of its recently completed audit of data relating to 98 pesticides that were suspected of having been falsified by the American-based chemical testing company, Industrial Bio-Test (IBT) Laboratories. The remaining 45 pesticides were cleared of suspicion.

In response to Health and Welfare Canada's recommendation, Mr. Whelan has cancelled the registrations of cyprazine (Outfox), a weed killer, and of phosphamidon (Gardel), an insecticide. Allidochlor (Randox) and chlorbromuron (Maloran), the two other pesticides that were slated for cancellation, are being retained until the end of 1982 when their status will be reviewed again. Onion and carrot farmers have been using these two pesticides for many years and, since no alternatives are available to replace them, their removal from use would mean severely decreased onion and carrot production in Canada.

Of the four pesticides for which a ban has been sought, the safety studies done by IBT Laboratories, have been invalidated and no new replacement studies are forthcoming. For the other 49, replacement studies are being done, and it is anticipated that nearly all the pesticides will be cleared within the next two years.

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Cancellation Of Four Pesticide Registrations (cont'd)

A spot check of the records of IBT was carried out in 1977 by officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which showed that the company had falsified vital information pertaining to the safety of several chemicals. Since then, scientists and regulatory officials from Health and Welfare Canada and EPA have been jointly auditing all the records from IBT, and those studies which have been invalidated are being repeated by manufacturers.

One chemical for which replacement studies have been carried out is captan, Canada's most widely used fungicide on fruit and vegetables in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Captan is also used around the home as a pre-plant to prevent root rot as well as against leaf diseases. The replacement studies indicate that this chemical causes intestinal cancer in animals.

In a recommendation to the federal agricultural minister, Health and Welfare Canada has requested that captan's use around the home be banned, and that there be no trace of the chemical on fruit and vegetables when they are harvested. However, rather than acting on this recommendation, Mr. Whelan appointed a consultative committee made up of nine of Canada's top university scientists, drawn from various disciplines such as ecology, environment, human health and plant pathology, to investigate all aspects of captan and to make recommendations to him. (In the future, this committee may investigate many pesticides on the IBT list.)

Its first action was to send out a questionnaire to farmer, consumer, civic and other concerned groups as well as to universities and provincial governments, requesting information on the fungicide. After having evaluated nearly 60 submissions, the committee called a three-day public hearing in March of this year to explore some of the more serious

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Cancellation Of Four Pesticide Registrations (cont'd)

areas of concern that were identified by the respondents. The committee is currently studying all the information and will hand down its recommendation to Mr. Whelan by the end of April on whether he should continue to allow captan to be used in Canada, and, if so, under what restrictions.

Farmers argue that a ban on captan will cause severe economic losses to the fruit and vegetable industries, and that alternatives to the fungicide will not be as safe or as beneficial. Environmental groups see a ban as a win in their war against the use of pesticides in food production, and, in the meantime, everyone waits!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN FARM EQUIPMENT

by Murray Green
Farm Machinery Engineer, Alberta Agriculture

Since the recent introduction of rotary threshing combines, airseeders and fertilizer banding equipment, things have been pretty quiet on the new machinery front. It seems manufacturers are concentrating their research and design dollars on cleaning up and improving their existing lines of equipment.

Tractors from several companies have undergone modifications to increase their fuel efficiency, fill in available horsepower gaps and add numerous electronic systems to help the operator monitor machine performance. Tillage equipment designs are giving improved uniformity in soil penetration, better flotation and greater working widths. Ground engaging equipment like discs, cultivator sweeps and plow bottoms have been designed to operate at higher field speeds without causing excessive soil pulverization. And trip mechanisms are now better able to protect equipment that is working at high travel speeds on stony land.

However, there are several automatic spray rate controllers that are new to the agricultural industry. These electronic monitors and controllers are capable of applying the selected amount of spray solution, such as 100 litres per hectare, regardless of variations in the forward travel speed of the sprayer. These units, which replace the present spray monitors, pressure gauges and boom controls are computer-controlled and programmed for the correct amount of spray by pressing buttons on a calculator-type keyboard. And they are capable of correcting for small variations in the pressure or flow that is delivered from the pump and of warning the operator if the pressure gets too low. Other information which they give includes the number of hectares sprayed, the sprayer travel speed, the amount of spray used from the tank and which booms are operating. The operator may take control at any time through a manual override control.

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New Developments In Farm Equipment (cont'd)

Interest in specialized soil conditioning machines has increased recently. They have been used for several years in the corn, soybean and specialized crop production areas of the United States and Eastern Canada, and now farmers in Western Canada are seeing the need to prepare the soil and leave the surface in better condition.

Several pieces of soil conditioning equipment are available that can be attached to tillage equipment in addition to, or in place of, the commonly mounted tine harrows. Depending on the particular attachment selected, they are better able to enhance weed kill, improve the incorporation of chemicals, break soil lumps and clods for desired soil tilth, pack the soil to retain moisture, maintain or increase surface straw residue and leave the soil's surface more resistant to crusting and erosion.

Farm machinery manufacturers are continuing their efforts to improve operator safety. An example is the addition of a decal to International Harvester's implement power take-off shafts, which shows the operator how to align the power take-off shaft. When an implement is connected to a tractor, the decal must line up directly over the drawbar hitch pin. This alignment keeps vibration and load on the universal joints to a minimum when the machine turns a corner. And this reduces the danger of a premature or unexpected failure of the power take-off shaft.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP INSURANCE FOR PEDIGREED FORAGE SEED

The Alberta Forage Seed Council has recommended to the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation that it consider the inclusion of pedigreed forage seed crops under its All-Risk Crop Insurance Program.

Larry Gareau, secretary-manager of the Alberta Forage Seed Council, says a working committee, made up of representatives of the forage seed council and the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, is preparing a proposal that would provide adequate insurance coverage at reasonable premiums. If the proposal is accepted, an insurance program for pedigreed forage seed crops could be in operation as early as 1983.

It is envisaged that the insurance would cover any pedigreed seed crop of a biennial or perennial grass or legume variety that is recommended or recognized as being adapted for seed production in Alberta. A pedigreed forage seed crop is defined as one that is grown from breeder, foundation or registered seed and that is eligible to produce foundation or certified seed in Alberta. Since more than 25 species and well over 100 varieties of grasses and legumes are grown for seed in the province, it has been suggested by the committee that initial consideration be given to the six most widely produced forage species which are creeping red fescue, timothy, alfalfa, red clover, alsike clover and brome grass.

It is also envisaged that the following risks would be covered: lack of establishment owing to drought, frost, soil crusting or soil drifting; winterkill; lack of seed set resulting from drought, excess moisture, wind, hail, frost or pests for which there is no known economical treatment or precautionary measures; and loss of seed from adverse weather conditions.

Where the loss is due to lack of establishment or winterkill, and where reseeding to an alternative crop is usually feasible, the committee suggests that insurance coverage be

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Crop Insurance For Pedigreed Forage Seed (cont'd)

based on the value of the seed that was planted plus the cost of preparing a new seedbed.

Since two types of coverage are being suggested by the committee, two types of premiums will have to be levied if the proposal is accepted. The first would be to cover the risk of crop establishment and winterkill. In this case the insurance would be payable at or near the time of seeding and the premium would be relative to the probable risk of crop loss from these factors as well as on the crop input costs. The second premium would be to cover seed loss during the production years of the crop, and the premium would be based on the yield potential of the crop. The yield potential would be established on the basis of actual yield data records and on the basis of an inspection of the crop by a forage seed crop technician in the fall of the previous year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTENDED ACREAGE OF ALBERTA FIELD CROPS AND SUMMERFALLOW

Alberta Farmers intend to plant 6.9 million acres to all classes of wheat this year, which represents an increase of 400,000 acres compared with 1981. This information was released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and is based on Agriculture Canada's annual survey which shows farmers' intentions to plant as of March 15 of the current year.

The acreage intended for oats is 2 million acres, unchanged from last year, and the barley acreage is expected to be 6.45 million acres, also unchanged from last year. The mixed grain acreage at 175,000 acres is down 12 per cent from last year. The combined fall and spring rye intended acreage of 325,000 acres is up 8 per cent compared with last year, while the intended acreage for rapeseed at 1.6 million acres is up by 3 per cent. The expected flax acreage at 100,000 acres is unchanged from 1981.

The province's summerfallow acreage is expected to decrease by 3 per cent to 5 million acres.

Fred Boyce of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch points out that factors such as the availability of seed, weather conditions and changes in the market outlook between the time the survey was taken and seeding time could contribute to changes in acreages presently indicated.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUYING USED EQUIPMENT

Are you one of the many farmers who are planning to buy used farm machinery at a farm or auction sale this spring? If so, here are a few pointers that you may find helpful.

According to Ted Nibourg, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Three Hills, one rule of thumb that you should remember is the "caveat emptor" or "buyer beware" slogan. He explains that most used machinery that is sold privately or at an auction is sold "as is", which means it carries no warranty unless the vendor states so in writing and spells out the terms of the warranty. And Mr. Nibourg points out that because used equipment does not come under the Alberta Farm Implement Act, a purchaser of such equipment that proves to be faulty has no recourse. Hence, it is a very good idea to spend a little time before you buy a piece of used machinery to go over it thoroughly. By doing this, you could save yourself many frustrating hours later.

"Another important point to remember about purchasing farm machinery privately or at an auction", says Mr. Nibourg, "is that it does not always have a clear title." Such a situation is especially likely to occur in a distress sale because an auctioneer is not required to search the titles of the machinery he sells. However, many auctioneers do so to protect their own interests. Nevertheless, the best way to protect yourself from having your "bargain" seized is to have the title searched. Mr. Nibourg says the easiest and most expedient way to do this is to ask your banker to search it for you, especially if the bank is going to supply the credit you will need to make your purchase. An alternative would be to contact an inspector with the administration branch of the Farm Implement Act.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA NUTRITIVE PROCESSORS RECEIVE FUNDING

Lakeside Feeders Ltd. of Brooks, Hostess Food Products Ltd. of Taber, V. Sawatzky Holdings Ltd. of Stony Plain and Sturgeon Feed Milling Ltd. of the Morinville area will all receive financial assistance under the Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance.

Lakeside Feeders Ltd.

This nutritive processing firm will receive $503,743 to modernize and expand its slaughtering facilities. The modernization and expansion will include facilities to process cattle carcasses into high quality deboned beef. The project is estimated to cost $2,518,000 and to create 14 jobs.

Hostess Food Products Ltd.

This plant will receive $362,278 to install processing lines for tortilla chips and extruded corn products in its snack food processing facility as well as to install packaging equipment and to convert part of the facility into a finished goods warehouse. The estimated cost of the project is $1,650,000 and it is expected to create 28 jobs.

V. Sawatzky Holdings Ltd.

This company will receive $25,111 to establish a bakery in its Stony Plain IGA store. The bakery will carry a full line of breads, buns, cakes and pastries, and its estimated cost is $180,000. It will employ three people.

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Alberta Nutritive Processors Receive Funding (cont'd)

Sturgeon Feed Milling Ltd.

Located eight miles north of Morinville, this mobile mill will receive $8,584 to modernize so that it can produce supplemented and complete feeds for the local market. The modernization is estimated to cost $43,000.

The Canada-Alberta Subsidiary Agreement on Nutritive Processing Assistance is equally funded and jointly administered by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY NUTRITIONIST APPOINTED

Ron Weisenburger, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Robert Westra to the position of dairy nutritionist. This is a new position in the nutrition section.

Dr. Westra (Bob) who has been employed by Alberta Agriculture as a ruminant nutritionist since May 1979, has been active in the areas of extension and research into nutrition for beef cattle, sheep and goats. However, his main research efforts have been connected with trace elements in livestock feed.

He grew up on a farm near Calgary and after a year at the University of Alberta worked at the Calgary Zoo for 10 years. Following this, he obtained his B.Sc. (zoology) from the University of Calgary and his M.Sc. and Ph.D from the University of Alberta. He has been involved in several research projects including the effect of cold temperatures on digestion in sheep, cattle, elk and deer, and has published a number of scientific papers in collaboration with other scientists.

Dr. Westra's duties as dairy nutritionist will be similar to those in his former position, except that he will now be working on dairy cattle and dairy goat nutrition. In addition to his duties as dairy nutritionist, he will complete his present research program on the cracked hoof syndrome in beef cattle.

Dr. Westra is also the acting head of the nutrition section.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST POSITION ESTABLISHED AT EDSON

The director of Alberta Agriculture's home economics and 4-H division, Irene Leavitt, has announced the appointment of a full-time district home economist to the Edson district office. She is Judy Shipley Smith, and this is her first appointment since she completed her training in Drumheller.

The decision to appoint a permanent district home economist to the Edson office is the result of an increase in the population in the region and an increase in the number of requests for programs and services by rural residents. In addition to the Edson area, Ms. Shipley Smith will be responsible for the Hinton, Jasper and Grande Cache areas and for the smaller communities in the region. The region was previously serviced by the district home economist in Evansburg.

In her new position Ms. Shipley Smith will provide the residents of the area with information and programs related to food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, home management and 4-H.

Ms. Smith was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, and grew up in Prince Albert. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. (home economics) in 1980. Before joining Alberta Agriculture in September 1981, she worked for Food Talk in Prince Albert; Saskatchewan Power as an assistant home services advisor; and the Saskatchewan Beef Information Centre.

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